

Hafa Adai!

NMC-CREES secures \$3.4 million for food science research. **PAGE 3**

Marianas Southern Airways to launch inaugural flight to Guam. **PAGE 4**

\$1

Saipan Tribune

Volume XXXII, Issue No. 164

THURSDAY AUGUST 18, 2022

www.saipantribune.com

www.facebook.com/saipantribune

BEACH ROAD COLLISION

Police officers check a van that ended up slamming into a pedestrian signal light pole after colliding with another vehicle on Beach Road across the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium yesterday morning. Two ambulances responded to the scene.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

CNMI donates 50K test kits, PPEs to FSM, RMI



By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres gestures as he talks with, from left, CNMI's COVID-19 Task Force chair Warren Villagomez, Rep. Angel A. Demapan (R-Saipan), and governor's authorized representative for COVID-19 Patrick Guerrero, yesterday morning at the Homeland Security's warehouse in San Antonio, where COVID-19 testing kits and personal protective equipment are stored. The CNMI will donate and ship 50,000 testing kits and PPEs, as seen in the background, to the Federated States of Micronesia and Republic of the Marshall Islands this weekend.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

face masks, and hand sanitizers, that will be donated and shipped this weekend to the Federated States of Micronesia and Republic of the Marshall Islands.

The 50,000 testing kits and PPEs, which are being stored and prepared for sendoff at the

Homeland Security's warehouse in San Antonio, are di-

See **DONATES** on **Page 4**

Victim in assault case gets TRO vs alleged attacker

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Maryann Borja has secured a temporary restraining order

against Rowina Ogo, essentially prohibiting Ogo from going near the complainant, whom she allegedly assault-

See **VICTIM** on **Page 4**

US, S. Korea to have expanded military drills next week

By **KIM TONG-HYUNG**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The United States and

South Korea will begin their biggest combined military training in years next week in the face of an increasingly

See **US** on **Page 4**

GUAM COVID-19 UPDATE 3 COVID-19-related deaths; 127 new cases

The Joint Information Center in Guam was notified of three more COVID-19-related fatalities.

The 388th COVID-19-related fatality was pronounced dead on arrival at the Guam Memorial Hospital on July 26, 2022. The patient was an 82-year-old male, fully vaccinated without a booster, with underlying health conditions, who tested positive on July 8.

See **COVID-19** on **Page 4**

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

INSIDE

BUSINESS



Kraft Heinz is recalling thousands of pouches of Capri Sun in the United States due to contamination.

PAGE 11



NATION

Scientists embarking on a census of Georgia lake sturgeon have found three females with mature eggs.

PAGE 12



LIFE & STYLE

"Flash" actor Ezra Miller said they have begun treatment for "complex mental health issues."

PAGE 15



SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



GOT A NEWS TIP?

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440

FAX: 235-3740

EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Central gov't delayed with local fund transfers to PSS

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The CNMI central government has yet to transfer to the Public School System \$3 million, which could increase by the end of this month an extra two million, for a total of \$5 million. Despite that, it was assured that payroll will not be held back and PSS employees will be paid on time.

This was learned during

yesterday's CNMI State Board of Education special meeting as part of Finance and Budget director Arlene Lizama's report on the financial status of local fund transfers.

Lizama reported that the matter has already been brought to the attention of the central government, and the government has not refused or come through with the amount, but has not transferred anything as yet.

In their discussion, several PSS officials and board members took note of the government's inconsistency in remitting the local funds on time. They pointed out that, last year, the government delivered the funds at the "eleventh hour," giving very little time for the BOE to spend the money before the fund would have to be returned.

Ed Tenori, who is the financial management consultant of

PSS, tried to clarify the government's current situation, saying the government would wait on certain reimbursement to be received in order to pay the money owed BOE. Several board members did acknowledge the government's situation but said they could not wait for the government to receive its reimbursements in order for PSS to release funds to pay their teachers and employees.

In an earlier discussion of the matter, it was brought up that, despite knowing that federal funds cannot be used to cover payroll, the fact that federal funds are currently available, maybe a certain amount can be loaned from the federal funds and will be paid back after they have received the local funds from the government. No further comment was extended as to whether or not this approached will be used. Another member suggested

that the BOE write an official letter to the federal government, and the Secretary of Education, to explain the situation, and to also be accountable that the federal funding was not being used to cover local payrolls.

At the end of Lizama's report, she assured that, with or without the local fund transfer, school payrolls will still be released on time, especially as classes are resuming and the need is evident.

Woman who fell off golf cart is suing Kingfisher

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A woman who fell off a golf cart at the Kingfisher Golf Links has filed a lawsuit against the golf course for the injuries she sustained from the fall.

Soon Kwan Kimis suing Kingfisher in the Superior Court after she fell from one of their golf carts and broke her femur—her thigh bone.

Kim, through Cong Nie, is alleging negligence on Kingfisher's part and wants the Superior Court to award her damages to be proven at trial.

According to the complaint, Kim and a friend were playing golf at Kingfisher last Oct. 30, 2021, when the incident happened at the course' ninth hole, as they were trying to move toward the next hole.

Kim and her friend had just hit their balls onto the fairway and had walked down the mound and gotten back into their golf cart. When they got to their cart, Kim sat on the passenger side while her friend was seated in the driver's side, serving as the driver.

Kim's friend then tried to start the cart by pressing on the accelerator pedal, but the cart did not move as it needed to turn somewhat toward the left to go around the mound. So, in an attempt to turn the cart, the driver pressed on the accelerator pedal several times, to no avail. However, when she tried once again to start the cart, it allegedly suddenly jolted forward. As a result, the cart

rushed up the mound, causing Kim to fall off the cart.

Because of the fall, Kim suffered a fracture on her left femur, which led to her hospitalization at the Commonwealth Health Center and required her to undergo surgeries.

"Kim suffered extreme pain, still suffers pain, and will continue to suffer pain. Because of the fracture, Kim has incurred expenses for her medical treatment, and will incur additional medical expenses and other life care-related expenses. Because of the fracture, Kim has been mostly confined to bed, with little mobility, and has lost enjoyment of life, and will continue to lose enjoyment of life," the lawsuit stated.

Kim is alleging that Kingfisher failed to properly inspect and maintain the golf cart provided to her and her friend, stating that had the golf cart been properly inspected and maintained, it would not have made the sudden and violent movement.

"Kingfisher knew or should have known that the poorly maintained cart could move suddenly and violently. Kingfisher failed to require its customers to avoid, or warn them against, riding its golf carts near or on uneven surfaces with a significant slope, especially when the golf carts were old and poorly maintained. Kingfisher also failed to reduce the slope and/or height of the mound where the teeing round for women of the ninth hole was located," the lawsuit stated.

Torres says he is ready for debates

Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres said yesterday that he is ready for a debate with the two gubernatorial teams running against him; in fact, there should be not one but more debates.

Torres, who is seeking reelection with Sen. Vinnie Sa-

blan as his running mate, said there's a debate every gubernatorial election and that no one's running away. He said everyone is just waiting for the Saipan Chamber of Commerce to coordinate the debate.

See **TORRES** on Page 4

30% LARGER
THAN A PIZZA HUT LARGE

16" EXTRA LARGE
The Big NEW YORKER PIZZA

CARRYOUT DEAL
\$12.99
1 TOPPING

Price higher for delivery. Additional charge for extra cheese and toppings.

CALL FOR DELIVERY & CARRYOUT ON SAIPAN (670) 235-9333

Pizza Hut

MEDIUM 2-TOPPING
2 Pizzas
\$9.49
EACH

Ask for limited time offer. Not available in some locations. Additional charge for extra toppings, Pan, and extra cheese. Exclusions apply. Must buy 2 for offer pricing.

10 Cinnabon® Mini Rolls
topped with signature cream cheese frosting

• CRAFTED BY •
CINNABON

Cinnabon® and the Cinnabon® logo are registered trademarks of Cinnabon Franchisor SPV LLC. ©2022 Cinnabon Franchisor SPV LLC

2 LARGE SPECIALTY PIZZAS
\$16.99
EACH

MUST PURCHASE TWO LARGE PIZZAS

Additional charge for Pan, Stuffed Crust, extra cheese and toppings.

LIMITED TIME OFFERS. Not available in some locations. Product availability, combinability of discounts and specials, delivery areas and charges may vary. Limited time only. Available at the participating Pizza Hut® Restaurant on Saipan. Products not exactly as shown. Delivery charges apply and do not include a gratuity. \$15 minimum order for delivery. Limited delivery area. The Pizza Hut name, logos, and related marks are trademarks of Pizza Hut, LLC. © 2022 Pizza Hut, LLC

NMC-CREES secures \$3.4 million for food science research

The Northern Marianas College, Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Services has been awarded \$3.4 million to conduct food science research and spur further economic development in the CNMI.

The projects, led by NMC CREES food scientist, program leader, and professor Dr. Zaidul Sarker, will use the bulk of the funds to purchase equipment for the food science lab on Saipan and a smaller lab on Rota.

"I am very much excited to receive this funding to install one of the best food science laboratories in the world in the CNMI at NMC-CREES," Sarker said. "I greatly hope to make patents and scientific publications from the local products of [the] CNMI."

Due to the scientific merit of the research proposals and wide experiences of Sarker with over 250 publications in peer-reviewed journals and five food science patents, the NMC internal peer review team was convinced to submit Sarker's proposals to USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

"The food science laboratory will allow us to have capabilities that we previously did not have in this region of the Pacific," said NMC CREES interim dean Patricia Coleman. "We will be able to study plant properties, conduct food analysis and food safety analysis, and do the research to create new products."

One aspect of the research focuses on diversifying the uses and supplementation of imported wheat flour in the value-added bakery products using breadfruit, sweet potato, taro, cassava, and yam flour from locally grown crops in the CNMI. The research seeks to preserve this value-added food for an extended period of

time as an alternative source of wheat and carbohydrate while

increasing local food security and decreasing the reliance on

imported food stuff.

"This is a great feat for

NMC and the CNMI and Micronesia region," NMC presi-

dent Galvin Deleon Guerrero, Ed.D., said. (NMC)

Power outage on Aug. 19

There will be scheduled power service interruption on Aug. 19, 2022, as the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. continues its ongoing system maintenance.

- Time: 8:30am to 12:30pm
- Area(s) affected: Koblerville MIHA Housing.
- Purpose: To install a new ABS and connect the new five span of the three phase overhead primary conductors to the Kiya 2 circuit.

- Circuit: Kiya 2
- Water wells(s) affected: KV-20 to KV-25 wells, however, no villages affected.

- Wastewater facility affected: A-12 lift station, however, no villages affected. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Hotline (236-4333) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates. (PR)



CLEARANCE SALE

MANY VEHICLES UNDER COST! FOR A LIMITED TIME!

USED CAR PRICE, NEW CAR CONFIDENCE! | QUALITY USED CARS | 3 MONTH or 3,000 MILES WARRANTY

2020 MITSUBISHI MIRAGE G4

SALE PRICE \$9,995

SOLD

• KBB: \$14,663 • 20,450 MILES • STK: 20R284

2018 MAZDA MAZDA6 SPORT

SALE PRICE \$16,995

• KBB: \$20,769 • 24,600 MILES • STK: 17P341

2018 NISSAN ROGUE SPORT

SALE PRICE \$19,995

• KBB: \$22,661 • 52,000 MILES • STK: 18P393

2008 TOYOTA SIENNA LE

SALE PRICE \$9,995

• KBB: \$10,485 • 114,582 MILES • STK: 8P456

2020 HYUNDAI ELANTRA SE

SALE PRICE \$17,995

• KBB: \$20,397 • 18,200 MILES • STK: 21H079A

2007 TOYOTA TACOMA

SALE PRICE \$19,995

• KBB: \$25,887 • 113,906 MILES • STK: 7P460

2018 KIA FORTE

SALE PRICE \$14,995

• KBB: \$17,059 • 10,500 MILES • STK: 18HS950

2018 MAZDA CX-5 TOURING

SALE PRICE \$22,995

• KBB: \$23,263 • 63,255 MILES • STK: 18P398

2013 TOYOTA FJ CRUISER SPORT

SALE PRICE \$29,995

• KBB: \$33,390 • 85,405 MILES • STK: 13P359

| STOCK # | YEAR | MODEL | KBB | SALE PRICE | STOCK # | YEAR | MODEL | KBB | SALE PRICE |
|---------|------|---------------------------|----------|-----------------|----------|------|-----------------------------|----------|-----------------|
| 18HS979 | 2018 | KIA FORTE | \$19,205 | \$14,995 | 18P452 | 2018 | MAZDA MX5 CLUB CONVERTIBLE | \$30,257 | \$27,995 |
| 21D019C | 2017 | MAZDA 3 SPORT SOLD | \$19,253 | \$15,995 | 20C017 | 2020 | MAZDA CX-5 TOURING | \$30,315 | \$27,995 |
| 16P360 | 2016 | MAZDA CX-5 TOURING | \$18,672 | \$17,995 | 16P364 | 2016 | TOYOTA 4RUNNER SR5 SPORT | \$35,198 | \$29,995 |
| 17P422 | 2017 | KIA SPORTAGE LE | \$19,021 | \$18,995 | 18R289 | 2018 | FORD F-150 XLT | \$30,387 | \$29,995 |
| 17P370 | 2017 | TOYOTA COROLLA LE | \$20,726 | \$18,995 | 13P359 | 2013 | TOYOTA FJ CRUISER SPORT | \$33,890 | \$29,995 |
| 8H054E | 2019 | HYUNDAI KONA SE | \$21,651 | \$18,995 | 17P409 | 2017 | TOYOTA 4RUNNER SR5 SPORT 4D | \$36,889 | \$31,995 |
| 21D129A | 2018 | HYUNDAI KONA | \$19,455 | \$18,995 | 20H141-E | 2018 | HYUNDAI GENESIS-G90 | \$38,204 | \$34,995 |
| 14P466 | 2014 | NISSAN CHEVY CAMARO | \$19,995 | \$19,995 | 19P367 | 2019 | HONDA RIDGELINE | \$47,459 | \$39,995 |
| 16P424 | 2016 | NISSAN MAXIMA | \$27,062 | \$19,995 | 10P447 | 2010 | FORD RAPTOR | \$38,151 | \$39,995 |
| 16P426 | 2018 | HONDA CIVIC LX | \$22,157 | \$21,995 | 18P478 | 2018 | FORD EXPLORER | \$41,387 | \$39,995 |
| 22M032A | 2018 | HONDA CIVIC EX | \$23,840 | \$21,995 | 19P455 | 2019 | KIA STINGER GT2 | \$45,870 | \$44,995 |
| 18HS947 | 2018 | HONDA CIVIC EX | \$23,087 | \$21,995 | 18P486 | 2018 | HONDA CIVIC TYPE R | \$45,619 | \$44,995 |
| 22M021A | 2019 | MAZDA6 GT SEDAN | \$29,936 | \$24,995 | 17P347 | 2017 | JEEP WRANGLER | \$39,134 | \$49,995 |

2015 TOYOTA CAMRY XLE

SALE PRICE \$15,995

• KBB: \$20,295 • 47,211 MILES • STK: 15P325

2021 TOYOTA COROLLA LE

SALE PRICE \$24,995

• KBB: \$25,509 • 19,459 MILES • STK: 21P425

2017 HYUNDAI TUCSON SE

SALE PRICE \$17,995

• KBB: \$19,752 • 62,261 MILES • STK: 17P365

2018 HYUNDAI TUCSON GL

SALE PRICE \$19,995

SOLD

• KBB: \$22,605 • 45,500 MILES • STK: 22M051A

2018 TOYOTA CAMRY XLE

SALE PRICE \$26,995

SOLD

• KBB: \$27,271 • 33,750 MILES • STK: 22M050A

2021 HYUNDAI PALISADE LIMITED

SALE PRICE \$46,995

• KBB: \$45,870 • 2,824 MILES • STK: 21H096D



CLICK



PICK



DRIVE



**BUYING IS NOW
FASTER AND EASIER!**



ONLINE SHOPPER

WWW.TRIPLEJSAIPAN.COM

Customers First



TRIPLE J MOTORS

WWW.TRIPLEJSAIPAN.COM

Beach Road, Chalan LauLau

Sales Office: 234-7133 • Parts & Service: 322-7134

✉ autosales@triplejsaipan.com

OPEN Mon-Fri: 8am to 6pm • Sat: 8am to 5pm

*On approved credit (OAC). Some conditions apply. Doc fees and registration not included. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Vehicles may not be exactly as shown. See dealer for more details. Maximum credit card payment toward vehicle purchase is \$2,500.

MSA to launch inaugural flight to Guam today

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Marianas Southern Airways, the CNMI's newest domestic airline, is set to see off its first flight to Guam this afternoon.

According to William Giles, MSA vice president, MSA will be sending off its first flight to Guam today at 2pm. It is expected to arrive at the Guam International Airport at around 3pm.

In related news, Giles shared that

the airline's second Tecnam plane is currently making its last leg to Saipan from the Philippines.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, MSA's inaugural flight that took off last Friday morning flew to Tinian, which was soon followed by

its first flight to Rota last Monday. The third inaugural flight is set to take off today.

Among the first passengers to experience the CNMI's newest domestic airline were Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Finance Secretary David

Atalig, MSA president Keith Stewart, and more.

MSA's first of three Tecnam aircrafts took flight at around 9:40am last Friday and headed for Tinian with its first passengers that also included Southern Airways chief marketing officer Keith Sisson, Miss Marianas 2021 Savannah Lyn Delos Santos, and others.

The CNMI's newest airline plans to offer over 90 weekly flights serving Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Guam. Through Southern Airways' interline agreement with United Airlines, it will also provide passengers the ability to make a reservation from Tinian, Rota, or Saipan to anywhere in the United network.

Marianas Southern Airways is a joint venture between Saipan's MP Enterprises and Southern Airways Express, one of America's largest regional airlines.

It will operate the nine-seat Tecnam P2012 Traveler aircraft, known as the world's most advanced twin-engine turbocharged piston aircraft.



Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, sixth from left, poses with some lawmakers, government officials, and Homeland Security officials and personnel, in front of several boxes containing 50,000 testing kits and personal protective equipment inside the Homeland Security's warehouse in San Antonio yesterday morning. The items will be donated and shipped this weekend to the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

DONATES

From Page 1

vided equally—at 25,000 each—to FSM and RMI.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, along with some government officials, checked the items in the Homeland Security warehouse yesterday morning.

Torres told the media that when he heard about the increasing number of COVID-19 cases in FSM, he reached out to FSM President David Panuelo, who was then in Guam, and offered the CNMI's assistance, sayin he (Torres) knows what it's like to have the first surge.

"Unfortunately, our brothers and sisters from FSM have their first outbreak. And we're one family," the governor said.

The latest news release from the FSM government states that there are currently 21 deaths in FSM attributable to and/or associated with

COVID-19.

The governor said that during Super Typhoon Yutu, FSM contributed \$200,000 to the CNMI's recovery and also sent their people to assist the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. in repairing the islands' power and water supply.

"So you can never repay that. Now that they are going through with the first phase [of COVID-19], we know how much help goes a long way," he said.

The governor said they know what supplies are needed.

Torres said he told Panuelo that they are going to send stuff that FSM will need for their brothers and sisters in FSM and that if there's any additional request, they are here to support that.

He said the same thing about the RMI, saying he spoke with RMI President David Kabua and offered the same assistance.

Torres thanked COVID-19 Task Force chair Warren Villagomez and the CNMI Homeland Secu-

rity for not just only maintaining the supplies in the warehouse, but acting expeditiously in providing what they are able to send to FSM and RMI.

"We're also looking what is the fastest way to send it out, whether it's via air or cargo," he said.

Villagomez said that both FSM and RMI need at this moment PPEs and other healthcare equipment, but they are also making sure that they have stocks on hand such as latex gloves, face shields, face masks, as well as N95, in the event that the CNMI get into another spike.

"But more so, [we are] preparing our region to make sure that, to anyone in need, we're readily available to assist," he said.

Villagomez said they have ample test kits on island that they continue to use at this time.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

VICTIM

From Page 1

ed at a bakery in Dan Dan.

Superior Court for the NMI Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio approved last Tuesday the TRO requested by Borja, the alleged victim in the case.

According to Borja, Ogo was served the TRO last Tuesday afternoon. It orders Ogo to stay at least 200 yards away from the victim and her residence in Garapan. It is set to expire on Aug. 23.

Pursuant to the TRO, Ogo was also ordered to appear in court on Aug. 23, at 9am to answer the complaint filed against her.

In a brief comment from Borja, she said she heaved a great "sigh of relief" after the court granted her a TRO against Ogo.

Meanwhile, Ogo, who is a former sister-in-law of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, has chosen to remain silent on the issue as advised by her lawyer.

She is set to appear in court on Aug. 29, for an arraignment in this case.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Borja claims that she was at Herman's Bakery buying bread when she was attacked just as she was leaving. She claims that she was "thrown"

against a fixture just outside the bakery before she felt a person's hands grasp her neck and "strangle" her.

During the struggle, Borja said she clearly saw that it was Ogo who was assaulting her and she was stunned. In a photo of Borja circulating on social media after the altercation, it appeared as though Borja sustained cuts and scratches to her neck as a result of the fight.

"I'm so traumatized. I don't understand why she would do such a thing. Whatever the problem was, I would have been ready and open to have a conversation about it and resolve the issue," she said.

Borja said she remembers at some point in the struggle that she punched Ogo in an attempt to defend herself. She said it was only after she tried to defend herself that Herman's Bakery staff managed to pull her attacker away from her.

Borja noted that DPS officers who responded to the scene also showed Ogo "special treatment" and brought her to the back of the bakery where they "arrested" her.

"I don't know if they handcuffed her or if they just placed her in the car but DPS showed unfair treatment. They talked to her for a while before bringing her to the back to arrest her," she said.

COVID-19

From Page 1

The 389th COVID-19-related fatality occurred at the U.S. Naval Hospital Guam on Aug. 8, 2022. The patient was a 74-year-old female, fully vaccinated without a booster, with underlying health conditions, who tested positive on July 28 and again on Aug. 2.

The 390th COVID-19-related fatality was pronounced dead on arrival at GMH on Aug. 16, 2022. The patient was a 96-year-old male, fully vaccinated with one booster, who tested positive on Aug. 16.

"[First gentleman] Jeff [Cook], [Lt. Gov.] Josh [Tenorio], and I send our deepest condolences to their families and friends," said Guam Gov. Lou

Leon Guerrero. "The loss to our community has been large and reports like these are always heartbreaking. We must be there for one another as we navigate our path toward overcoming COVID-19. While we work toward recovery, we remember there are still families that are heavily impacted and we must continue to do our part to keep our most vulnerable safe and healthy."

Also, Guam's Department of Public Health and Social Services reported yesterday 127 new cases of COVID-19 from 1,960 specimens collected on Aug. 16, 2022. Eight of the new cases reported are through the Department of Defense.

To date, there have been a total of 57,040 officially reported cases, 390 deaths, 707 cases in active isolation, and 55,943 not in active isolation. **(PR)**

US

From Page 1

aggressive North Korea, which has been ramping up weapons tests and threats of nuclear conflict against Seoul and Washington, the South's military said Tuesday.

The allies' summertime drills, which will take place from Aug. 22 to Sept. 1 in South Korea under the name of Ulchi Freedom Shield, will include field exercises involving aircraft, warships, tanks and potentially tens of thousands of troops.

The drills underscore Washington

and Seoul's commitment to restore large-scale training after they canceled some of their regular drills and downsized others to computer simulations in recent years to create space for diplomacy with Pyongyang and because of COVID-19 concerns.

The U.S. Department of Defense also said the U.S., South Korean and Japanese navies took part in missile warning and ballistic missile search and tracking exercises off the coast of Hawaii from Aug. 8 to 14, which it said was aimed at furthering trilateral cooperation in face of North Korean challenges.

While the United States and South

Korea describe their exercises as defensive, Ulchi Freedom Shield will almost surely draw an angry reaction from North Korea, which describes all allied trainings as invasion rehearsals and has used them to justify its nuclear weapons and missiles development.

Before they were shelved or downsized, the U.S. and South Korea held major joint exercises every spring and summer in South Korea. The spring ones had been highlighted by live-fire drills involving a broad range of land, air and sea assets and usually involved around 10,000 American and 200,000 Korean troops.

TORRES

From Page 2

Democratic Party gubernatorial candidate Rep. Christina E. Sablan and her running mate for lieutenant governor, Rep. Leila Fleming Staffler, are challenging the

teams of Torres-Vinnie F. Sablan, and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios-Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, to a debate.

As of yesterday, there was no words yet from Palacios and Apatang if they accept the debate challenge. Palacios is running for governor, with Apatang as his running mate for

lieutenant governor, under a unified independent team.

Torres said the debate challenge is never an issue as he is just waiting for the Saipan Chamber of Commerce to coordinate it. "If anything, let's have four, five debates. Why [just have] one," he said. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**



Reopen your business or start a new venture with help from the BOOST Program!

Are you a CNMI registered business owner or a non-profit organization? Has your business suffered financial distress? Do you have great plans for starting a new business but need financing?

BOOST Program is the acronym for - **B**uilding **O**ptimism, **O**pportunities and **S**tability **T**ogether. It is a financial assistance in the form of Grants - initiated by the Office of the Governor, Department of Commerce, and Department of Finance - provided to local businesses and non-profits, as well as coaching and training programs to support their viability and help create employment opportunities. The program also supports the Commonwealth government's goal of diversifying the economy and increasing tax revenues.

Hurry! Avail now of the BOOST PROGRAM GRANTS.
For inquiries log on to www.boostcnmi.com





JRM JOINS CNMI LIBERATION DAY CELEBRATION

Joint Region Marianas Commander Rear Adm. Benjamin Nicholson waves as a local resident raises an American flag during the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands' Liberation Day Parade on Saipan, July 4. The CNMI celebrated the event as their 74th, 75th, and 76th liberation day, as the parade was cancelled in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

U.S. NAVY/SHAINA O'NEAL



Military leadership join in the presentation of a house resolution to David Sablan, son of Elias Parong Sablan, who was honored with the resolution for his contributions to the residents of Saipan as one of the island's first local leaders following World War II, during the CNMI Liberation Day Parade on Saipan, July 4.

U.S. NAVY/SHAINA O'NEAL



Joint Region Marianas Commander Rear Adm. Benjamin Nicholson and Maj. Gen. Mark Hashimoto, mobilization assistant to the Commander, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, greet Don Farrell, 2021 Liberation Day Grand Marshall, during the CNMI Liberation Day Parade in Saipan, July 4.

U.S. NAVY/SHAINA O'NEAL



Soldiers from the Guam National Guard render salutes during the CNMI Liberation Day Parade on Saipan, July 4.

U.S. NAVY/SHAINA O'NEAL



Marines from Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz march during the CNMI Liberation Day Parade on Saipan, July 4.

U.S. NAVY/SHAINA O'NEAL

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW/SWMD22-ITB No.: 42200139

SUBMISSION DATE: September 07, 2022 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

“Procurement of Services for Removal, Packaging, Containment, and Shipping of E-Waste Materials collected at the Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DIVISION, LOWER BASE TRANSFER STATION, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **August 04, 2022** at the Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan.

A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the **Scope of Work at the Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Transfer Station required for each set.**

There will be a **Mandatory Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **August 23, 2022**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Solid Waste Management Division Conference Room, Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **August 30, 2022** to **Mr. Blas T. Mafnas, Director of Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Transfer Station**, Saipan or fax to (670) 322-2762. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ **JAMES A. ADA**
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ **FRANCISCO C. AGUON**
ACTING DIRECTOR,
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Deolje Dalag : FCD-DI
Tanjusay : CIVIL ACTION NO.
Petitioner, : 21-0527-FCD
vs. :
Flora Mia : **SUMMONS FOR**
Canapi Badua : **PUBLICATION**
Respondent.

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the Court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is PMB 700 BOX 10000 Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgement by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 29th day of December, 2021.

/s/
CLERK OF COURT

Name: Antonio G. Lloren
Address: P.O. Box 505580
Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670)285-4122
Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

ANTONIO G. LLOREN : FCD-DI
Petitioner, : CIVIL ACTION
vs. : NO. 21-0138
ANGELA P. LLOREN : **SUMMONS**
Respondent, :

TO: ANGELA P. LLOREN

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to ANTONIO G. LLOREN whose address is P.O. Box 505580, Saipan MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 12th day of April 2021.

/s/
Clerk of Court



The Marine Corps Forces Pacific band performs on the Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs float during the CNMI Liberation Day Parade on Saipan, July 4.

U.S. NAVY/SHAINA O'NEAL



Residents watch as a military caravan drives by during the CNMI Liberation Day Parade on Saipan, July 4.

U.S. NAVY/SHAINA O'NEAL

NMC engages CNMI governor's BOOST training program participants



Northern Marianas College Community Development Institute director MariaValentina Haberman gives a presentation to summer youth employment interns at the Office of the Governor's Building Optimism, Opportunities and Stability Together Workforce Development Training Program on Wednesday, Aug. 17, 2022.

As part of Northern Marianas College's efforts to promote workforce development, it recently conducted career path assessments and discussed the available resources that the college has to offer to the participants of the Office of the Governor's Building Optimism, Opportunities and Stability Together Workforce Development Training Program.

During the presentation, NMC representatives from the Community Development Institute, Office of Admissions and Records, Project PROA, and the Apprenticeship pro-

gram spoke about the services and resources available to students at the college.

In addition, the staff from NMC's Student Support Services conducted an assessment of each student through Kuder Journey, a web-based career planning system. Through Kuder Journey, each student answered a series of questions in relation to personality traits, interests, and possible career paths.

Jose Camacho, a senior student at Marianas High School, said he is now better prepared for his professional career

journey. "I now know I can do more in life, and I can always aim higher and hold myself to a higher standard," he said.

Camacho, who was an intern under the Department of Public Works, said he wants to be an entrepreneur after obtaining a bachelor's degree in Business and will consider starting his path with NMC.

Isabella Feliciano, a participant who interned at the Office of Planning and Development, shared the same sentiments. "After taking the assessments, the results further supported my interests in en-

gineering, business, and financial literacy," the incoming senior at Marianas High School said. Feliciano, who plans to become an engineer in the future, said that being financially literate is very important in the engineering field.

The BOOST Workforce Development Training program is designed for junior and senior high school students who are employed under the Office of the Governor's Summer Youth Employment program. In addition to the career assessments provided by NMC, the participants

will be provided training on cardiopulmonary resuscitation and first-aid, information on the CNMI Public School System's Career and Technical Education Program, and information from the CNMI

Department of Labor and the Office of Personnel Management with the goal for these young individuals to plan their next steps in a career pathway that best suits their interests. (NMC)

NOTICE TO RODNEY DAWE & ROGER DAWE

CHARITY R. HODSON (F0487)
ATTORNEY AT LAW
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 502607 CK
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 234-1615
Facsimile: (670) 234-5749
charity@chodsonlaw.com

Attorney for Petitioner Vidal J.N. Fital

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

THE ESTATE OF) Civil Action No. 22-0131
BERNADITA)
ILAL DAWE,) [Proposed] ORDER
Deceased.) SETTING HEARING
ON PETITION)
FOR PARTIAL)
DISTRIBUTION)
Date: August 18, 2022
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Judge: Joseph N. Camacho

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Administrator Vidal Joseph Nekaifes Fital has filed a Petition for Decree of Final Distribution in this matter. The filing has been converted to Petition for Partial Distribution and will be heard on the date and time set forth above at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Dated this 12th day of August, 2022.

/s/
Joseph N. Camacho, Associate Judge

NOTICE TO RODNEY DAWE & ROGER DAWE

CHARITY R. HODSON (F0487)
ATTORNEY AT LAW
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 502607 CK
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 234-1615
Facsimile: (670) 234-5749
charity@chodsonlaw.com

Attorney for Petitioner Vidal J.N. Fital

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

THE ESTATE OF) Civil Action No.
SIMON ILAL,) 22-0124
Deceased.) [Proposed] ORDER
ON PETITION)
FOR PARTIAL)
DISTRIBUTION)
Date: August 18, 2022
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Judge: Joseph N. Camacho

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Administrator Vidal Joseph Nekaifes Fital has filed a Petition for Decree of Final Distribution in this matter. The filing has been converted to Petition for Partial Distribution and will be heard on the date and time set forth above at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Dated this 12th day of August, 2022.

/s/
Joseph N. Camacho, Associate Judge



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES CUC-RAESP-22-030

Underground Power Distribution Systems to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation – Phase I

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed Architectural & Engineering (A/E) Services Proposal from qualified firms to design an underground power distribution system from the CUC Power Plant 1 Facility to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC). When fully functioning, the infrastructure is designed to distribute uninterrupted power to the CHCC during tropical storms or typhoon events and following natural disasters such that the CNMI's only public owned healthcare facility is able to provide healthcare services to the CNMI's people. The RAESP project is the first step of a phase approach process in determining the cost benefits of constructing a dedicated underground power distribution system. The design of the infrastructure will convey the feasibility of this FEMA investment in delivering uninterrupted power to the CHCC during tropical storms or typhoon events and following natural disasters.

This project is funded by a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The RAESP package may be obtained via email between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$300.00 for one RFP package set. **To register for the RAESP, please contact Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Technician Senior via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.**

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Proposal; and One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Cost Proposal must be submitted in a separately sealed envelope marked "CUC-RAESP-22-030, Underground Power Distribution Systems to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 26, 2022**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposals shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

All responses to this RAESP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract.

This RAESP does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on August 12, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC's Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Anne Crocket, CUC Power Division Chief Engineer via email address anne.crocket@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, Purchasing Technician, Senior via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-22-032

SAN ANTONIO WATERLINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of San Antonio Waterline Replacement in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists, in general installation of a new main waterline and lateral service line; connection to the existing waterline; relocation of water meters from private property to right-of-way, installation of gate valve assembly, air release valves, fire hydrant assembly, flush hydrants; existing lateral service tap relocation; restoration of existing asphalt concrete road; and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **365 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **August 25, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-22-032, San Antonio Water Line Replacement Project", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 15, 2022**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A **Bid Guarantee** of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a **surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety**. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a **Performance Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidder. The Payment and Performance bond **must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety**. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 26, 2022** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email at manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Ms. Alley Reyes, Project Engineer – via email at alley.reyes@cucgov.org and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Procurement & Supply, Purchasing Technician Senior – via email at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXII, Issue No. 164

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The US can't afford any more illusions in Afghanistan



WAKIL KOHSAR/AFP/GETTY IMAGES/TNS

Taliban fighters hold weapons as they ride on a Humvee to celebrate their victory day near the U.S. embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Monday, Aug. 15, 2022.

One year ago, Afghanistan fell to the Taliban in part because the U.S. had hoped for the best after withdrawing its forces from the country, without adequately preparing for the worst. In dealing with the Taliban today, President Joe Biden's administration can afford no such illusions.

The past 12 months should've dispelled any optimism about the new regime. In its second turn in power, the Taliban again seems willing to host foreign terrorists, including former al-Qaida chieftain Ayman al-Zawahiri, killed by a U.S. drone strike in the heart of Kabul. Those Taliban leaders who favor less barbaric social policies—such as allowing girls to attend school—aren't willing to challenge their more conservative counterparts over them.

The Pashtun-dominated movement shows little inclination to accommodate the country's minorities or prevent revenge attacks on former enemies. If their enforcers haven't yet replicated the horrific brutality they displayed in the 1990s, they're nevertheless on their way to making Afghanistan one of the most repressive societies on Earth.

Importantly, even those Taliban leaders who desire sanctions relief and international recognition aren't willing to compromise in any significant way to achieve them. Despite a cratering economy and continuing attacks from the local branch of Islamic State, the regime appears mostly secure in its position. There's little chance the movement will fracture or implode in the near term—and even less of a viable opposition forming.

With those realities in mind, the U.S. needs to take a pragmatic approach to further engagement. Its top priority

See US on Next Page



Salman Rushdie and the defense of hate speech

“Professor, why should we allow hate speech?”

Over the past few years, that's become the most common question that students ask me in class. My reply is simple: Human beings have different understandings of hate, love and everything in between. Almost any statement can be perceived as bigoted or offensive, depending on the context. So once we prohibit “hate speech,” we won't be able to speak at all.

And if you disagree, I have two words for you: Salman Rushdie. Rushdie, who was seriously wounded by a knife-wielding assailant on Friday, is probably the most famous purveyor of hate speech in the world. To be clear, I don't find what he writes and says hateful. But many people—possibly, millions of people—do.

That's why Iranian leaders issued a fatwa against Rushdie—that is, a call for his death—after he published his 1988 novel “The Satanic Verses.” It's why a half-dozen countries banned the book, which fictionalizes parts of the life of the Prophet Muhammad. It's why the novel's Japanese translator was stabbed to death and why its Norwegian publisher was shot three times outside his home.

And it's probably why 24-year-old Hadi Matar of Fairview, New Jersey, took a bus to the Chautauqua Institution in upstate New York, where Matar allegedly stabbed Rushdie about 10 times. Police haven't confirmed Matar's motive. But many Iranians assumed that he was carrying out the fatwa, which earned him fervent praise in their newspapers.

“Bravo to the courageous and duty-conscious man who attacked the apostate and depraved Salman Rushdie in New York,” one Iranian paper declared. In Tehran, meanwhile, a delivery person interviewed by The Associated Press said he was “happy to hear” about the attack. “This is the fate for anybody who insults sanctities,” he added.

That's the cry of the censor, in all times and places: A word or idea is insulting what is most sacred to us, so it's our duty to shut it down, lest it promote depravity—especially among the young.

Witness the book bans suffusing American school districts right now, mostly targeted at material about sex and gender. Critics allege that these texts threaten students by depriving them of sexual innocence. Some even claim that the books “groom” children for sexual abuse.

Or consider the spate of GOP-sponsored bills in state legisla-

By **JONATHAN ZIMMERMAN**
Chicago Tribune

Jonathan Zimmerman teaches education and history at the University of Pennsylvania. He is the author, with cartoonist Signe Wilkinson, of *Free Speech and Why You Should Give a Damn*.



tures barring the teaching of critical race theory, the 1619 Project and other curricula that deal with racism in the United States. Republicans say these approaches teach students to hate their country. They argue that we must censor the curricula, or America won't be America anymore.

Most of my students are liberal Democrats, so they're appalled by these measures. But they often support their own brand of censorship against hate, aimed at protecting America's minority groups rather than the nation writ large.

Starting in the 1980s, hundreds of colleges and universities promulgated codes to prohibit negative remarks about minorities. The most famous one was adopted by the University of Michigan, which barred “any behavior, verbal or physical, that stigmatizes or victimizes an individual on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, (or) creed.”

But as a federal judge ruled in 1989, when he struck down the Michigan speech code, “what one individual might find victimizing or stigmatizing, another individual might not.” Black students at Michigan were charged by whites with violating the code in 20 cases. One African American student was punished for using the term “white trash.”

You might not think that's stigmatizing, but other people did. And lots and lots of people think that Rushdie stigmatized them too. Once you have decided that some speech is too hateful to be expressed, you won't have a leg to stand on when they come after Rushdie—or anyone else.

That's why Rushdie has spent the past three decades demanding freedom for all speech. He wrote in support of the Charlie Hedbo cartoons of Muhammad after Islamic terrorists attacked the Paris magazine in 2015. And he has also stood foursquare

See SALMAN on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The US needs a national plan for racial justice

The United States is in the hot seat on the global stage to answer for its human rights track record in fighting racial discrimination at home. That stage is the United Nations' Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, a body of international human rights experts who monitor compliance with a global racial justice treaty.

This is the first time U.S. leaders have appeared before this body since the racial reckoning of 2020 spurred by the murder of George Floyd. In fact, it's been nearly 8 years since the United States last made a visit, after the Trump administration failed to appear at all. On Aug. 12 and 13, the U.S. government delegation defended their report to the committee and insisted that existing domestic measures are enough to address the country's racial problems.

Anyone who has been paying attention to the state of racial justice in the United States, myself included, will not be convinced.

Amid sharp spikes in racist hate crimes targeting Black and Asian communities, the infiltration of law enforcement by white nationalists, state censorship of public school educators teaching "critical race theory" and continued police killings, the Biden administration was hard pressed in claiming that it has achieved meaningful progress.

The rise of racist and antisemitic anti-democracy movements cre-

SALMAN

From Page 8

against left-wing efforts at universities to restrict what we can say about race, gender and sexuality. "It's a very dangerous path for people to take to use censorship as a way of defending minorities because it will backfire," Rushdie told a University of Virginia audience in 2016. "It always has."

Rushdie suffered damage to his neck, stomach and liver in the attack Friday. He may lose an eye. And he almost lost his life, a life he has dedicated to the cause of human freedom.

If you support the censorship of hate speech, from any side of the political aisle, stop pretending you believe in his cause. You just want your side to win.

US

From Page 8

should be preventing Afghanistan from again becoming a base for terrorist attacks. The Biden administration should advise the Taliban that the U.S. can and will take out more targets there if necessary—and that continued hosting of extremist groups will preclude international recognition of the regime. The White House should also leverage exposure of ongoing ties between al-Qaeda and the Taliban to seek greater counterterrorism help from countries such as Pakistan.

It's also in U.S. interests to avert a humanitarian disaster in Afghanistan, which rightly or wrongly would be blamed on the West. Billions in international aid prevented a feared famine last winter. But the Afghan economy shrank by as much as 30% in the past year. Up to 70% of Afghans can't afford food and other necessities. Although the U.S. should be mindful of strengthening the Taliban with additional aid, it can't ignore a looming crisis. It should focus for now on rallying donors to meet the United Nations' humanitarian funding appeal, which is far short of its target.

Finally, the U.S. should recommit to bringing Afghans who qualify for so-called Special Immigrant Visas to the U.S. as quickly as possible. While recent efforts to streamline the complicated process are welcome, the backlog of applicants is still far too high, and key consulates abroad need personnel and resources to process visas for other vulnerable Afghans fleeing the country. Congress should also pass legislation that would allow Afghans already in the U.S. to apply for green cards before their temporary immigration status expires.

Such an agenda is admittedly limited. But after spending 20 years and \$2 trillion in Afghanistan only to return the country to the Taliban last year, the U.S. must be realistic about what it can accomplish. Simply forestalling the worst would be no small achievement.

ates an imperative for the United States to step up to its international obligations and present a bold vision for reform. Instead of expecting an A for effort just for showing up and defending the juridical status quo, the Biden administration should commit to establishing an independent National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) authorized to implement an ambitious national plan for racial justice.

The United States ratified the racial justice treaty that established the U.N. committee in 1994. In two of its past three appearances before it and again last week, the committee has called on the United States to establish a U.N.-accredited NHRI, as 117 countries—including our neighbors to the north and south—have. Not only is the United States an outlier in its failure to establish a NHRI, events since the last review in 2014 demonstrate an even more dire need for one.

An independent NHRI would be charged with fulfilling our human rights obligations. It would be an independent body with the power to operate with dedication and integrity—irrespective of who controls the White House or Congress. It would be equipped with investigative authority and adequate resources to serve as an advocate for human rights nationwide. And it would be accountable to the people, especially the communities most impacted by human rights violations, and charged with developing a national action plan for racial justice that includes exploring concrete proposals for reparations.

The Biden administration argued that we already have institutions that uphold human rights, citing an ostensibly independent

By EJIM DIKE

Progressive Perspectives

Ejim Dike is a senior fellow at Western States Center and the former executive director of the U.S. Human Rights Network. She teaches at John Jay College and is a doctoral candidate at Clark Atlanta University. This column was produced by Progressive Perspectives, which is run by The Progressive magazine and distributed by Tribune News Service.



judiciary, the Department of Justice, and state, local and Indigenous human rights commissions. Nevertheless, persistent systemic racism renders their efficacy unconvincing.

Ultimately, it is not the international community in Geneva that we are letting down, but our own people back at home. Earlier this year, President Biden insisted that "faith and morality" call us to act to address the "systemic racism that has plagued our nation for far, far too long." While his administration has taken tentative steps in the right direction—a re-engagement with the U.N. being one of them—they do not meet the needs of this historic moment.

The establishment of a National Human Rights Institution with an ambitious mandate to implement a national plan for racial justice would be something to be proud of, at home and abroad.

Standing up for Taiwan is standing up for American ideals

As we set foot on the tarmac in Taiwan, with thousands of people lining the midnight streets to welcome us, I turned back to look at our military aircraft, with the illuminated American flag on its tail. Just as the American flag serves as a beacon of freedom across the world, so too does Taiwan serve as a beacon of democracy against the growing aggression and autocracy of the People's Republic of China.

It's for that reason that I, along with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and four of my colleagues from the House of Representatives, felt the need to visit Taipei despite the threats from Beijing—to show our support for the people of Taiwan and to demonstrate that the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) will not be allowed to dictate their security, or ours.

Taiwan's inclusive, vibrant democracy and advanced economy, which is growing faster than China's and produces more than half the world's microchips, cannot be allowed to fall at the hands of the CCP. So far, the government in Beijing has met President Tsai Ing-wen's efforts toward de-escalation with only growing belligerence.

Our visit to Taiwan came amid escalating acts of Chinese aggression toward the democratic, self-ruled island. Over the last few years, Taiwan's government reports that China has launched daily cyberattacks on its government agencies, while also increasing incursions into Taiwan's air defense zone. This all comes as Beijing also mounts additional economic pressure on Taipei by limiting tourism from the mainland and coercing global corporations to sever ties with the island.

The autocratic and oppressive behavior of the CCP occurs within China's borders too. As Beijing dismantles what remains of Hong Kong's autonomy, it also continues its horrific campaign of genocide against the Uyghurs and other ethnic minorities, while restricting freedom of expression and the press for all its citizens.

During our visit, we conveyed how the CHIPS and Science Act, which recently passed the Congress, will benefit both our economies and national security interests, as Taiwanese firms have committed to spend billions to develop new facilities in the United States.

By RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY

Chicago Tribune

U.S. Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi, a Democrat from Illinois, is a member of the House Intelligence Committee.



Taiwan is not simply a member of the community of democracies—through its chip industry, it's an essential partner in the arsenals and economies of democracy. If Taiwan and its chip manufacturing industry were put at risk, there would be dramatic economic and security implications for the free world, including the United States. We must preserve peace across the Taiwan Strait by fulfilling our obligation under the Taiwan Relations Act to ensure Taiwan's right to self-defense.

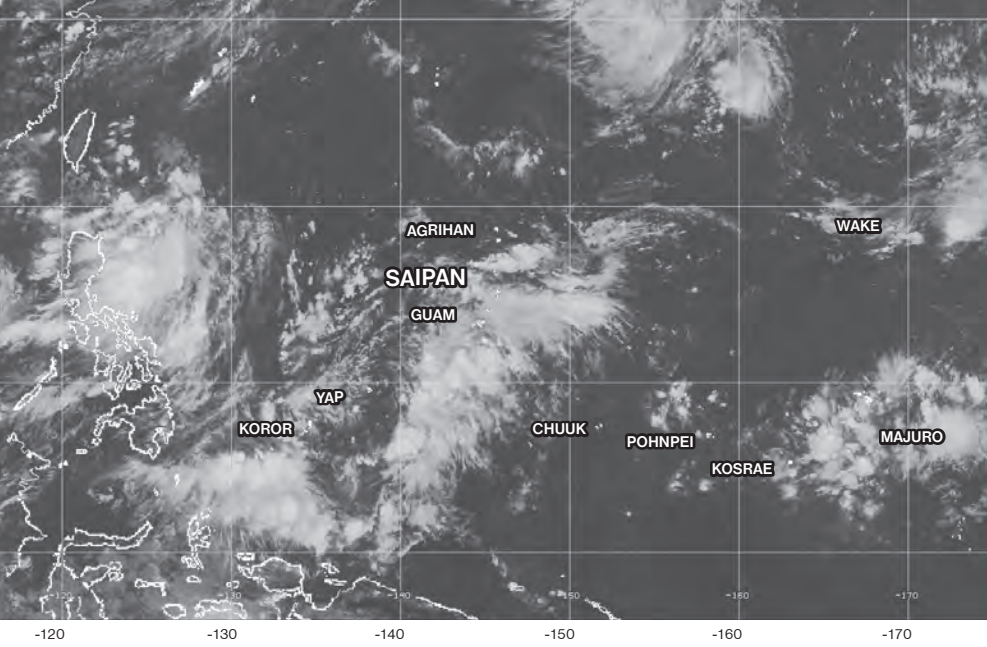
The rising tide of autocracy is a threat that must drive us to strengthen our ties to our friends rather than to abandon them to hostile powers. As we've shown unwavering support for Ukraine in its defense against Russia's brutal and unjustified invasion, along with partners including Taiwan, so too must the United States be steadfast in its commitment to support other democracies threatened by authoritarian governments across the world.

That's why our delegation's visit also brought us to Singapore, Malaysia, South Korea and Japan, where we were able to honor relationships and continue dialogues to strengthen our economic and security cooperation. When we join with democracies to form a united front, our strengths and values stand as an example—as well as a warning—to autocratic governments across the world, including in Beijing and Moscow.

Now, as we watch China follow through on its threat of large-scale military exercises, our congressional delegation's visit should serve as an unequivocal statement that the United States will stand firm against the ambitions of military autocracies, and behind Taiwan, our partner in democracy.

The Weather

| 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|--------------|-----|--|-----|--------------|-----|--------------|-----|
| TODAY | | FRIDAY | | SATURDAY | | SUNDAY | | MONDAY | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| Mostly sunny, | | Mostly sunny | | A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny | | Mostly sunny | | Mostly sunny | |
| 87° | 78° | 87° | 78° | 86° | 77° | 87° | 78° | 87° | 78° |
| YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE | | | | | | | | | |



PICTURE TIME: 7:51 AM, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows scattered showers moving through the Marianas waters, especially near Guam. The buoys reveal combined seas of 4 to 6 feet trending toward 5 to 7 feet. These are composed mainly of trade-wind swell and wind waves from the east-southeast.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

onds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

| MICRONESIA | | | ▲ ▼ °F |
|---------------|-------------------------|-----------|--------|
| Guam and Rota | Isolated Thunderstorms | 86° / 78° | |
| Palau | Thunderstorms | 82° / 75° | |
| Yap | Thunderstorms | 85° / 78° | |
| Chuuk | Scattered Thunderstorms | 85° / 78° | |
| Pohnpei | Thunderstorms | 87° / 76° | |
| Kosrae | Thunderstorms | 86° / 78° | |
| Majuro | Thunderstorms | 87° / 78° | |

| DAY | SUNRISE | SUNSET |
|----------|---------|---------|
| Today | 6:02 AM | 6:38 PM |
| Friday | 6:02 AM | 6:38 PM |
| Saturday | 6:03 AM | 6:37 PM |
| Sunday | 6:03 AM | 6:37 PM |
| Monday | 6:03 AM | 6:36 PM |

| DAY | MOONRISE | MOONSET | MOONRISE |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Today | - | 11:27 AM | 11:13 PM |
| Friday | - | 12:19 PM | 11:55 PM |
| Saturday | - | 1:11 PM | - |
| Sunday | 12:39 AM | 2:04 PM | - |
| Monday | 1:26 AM | 2:56 PM | - |

| AROUND THE GLOBE | | | ▲ ▼ °F |
|------------------|-------------------------|-----------|--------|
| Auckland | Rain/Wind | 62° / 60° | |
| Beijing | Partly Cloudy | 77° / 73° | |
| Hong Kong | Thunderstorms | 87° / 81° | |
| Honolulu | Mostly Sunny | 87° / 75° | |
| London | Cloudy | 79° / 64° | |
| Los Angeles | Sunny | 86° / 65° | |
| Manila | Thunderstorms | 83° / 76° | |
| Melbourne | Showers | 59° / 54° | |
| Miami | Thunderstorms | 89° / 79° | |
| New York | Partly Cloudy | 79° / 65° | |
| Osaka | Rain | 85° / 76° | |
| Paris | Thunderstorms | 82° / 63° | |
| Busan | Partly Cloudy | 82° / 75° | |
| Rome | Mostly Cloudy | 95° / 72° | |
| Salem | Scattered Thunderstorms | 86° / 69° | |
| San Francisco | Partly Cloudy | 71° / 56° | |
| Seoul | Partly Cloudy | 86° / 70° | |
| Tokyo | Scattered Thunderstorms | 85° / 76° | |
| Washington, DC | Partly Cloudy | 82° / 63° | |

| TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY | | | FEET |
|----------------------------|-----------|------|------|
| 6:43 AM | Low Tide | 0.56 | |
| 12:54 PM | High Tide | 1.62 | |
| 6:29 PM | Low Tide | 1.03 | |
| - | - | - | |

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2022

| DEPARTURES | | | | ARRIVALS | | | |
|---|--------|---------|-------------------|----------------------|---------|----------|-------------------------|
| SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) | | | | GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN | | | |
| UA117 | 9:50AM | 10:30AM | Daily | UA174 | 8:00AM | 8:45AM | Daily |
| UA156 | 6:30PM | 7:15PM | 6 | UA112 | 4:40PM | 5:30PM | 6 |
| GUAM-MANILA (MNL) | | | | MANILA (MNL)-GUAM | | | |
| PR 111 | 6:00AM | 8:00AM | Daily | PR110 | 10:00PM | 4:00AM+1 | Daily |
| UA193 | 7:05PM | 10:55PM | 5 via Palau | UA184 | 10:25PM | 4:25AM+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| UA183 | 7:10PM | 9:10PM | Daily | UA192 | 10:25PM | 6:15AM+1 | 5 via Palau |
| | | | | UA184 | 11:50PM | 5:40AM+1 | 5 |
| SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) | | | | MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN | | | |
| UA117/183 | 9:50AM | 9:10PM | Daily via Guam | UA184/174 | 10:25PM | 8:45AM+1 | 1,2,3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam |
| UA117/193 | 9:50AM | 10:55PM | 5 via Guam, Palau | UA192/174 | 10:25PM | 8:45AM+1 | 5 via Palau, Guam |
| | | | | UA184/174 | 11:50PM | 8:45AM+1 | 5 via Guam |
| SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN) | | | | INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN | | | |
| TW9308 | 3:30PM | 7:20PM | Daily | 7C3406 | 8:30AM | 2:10PM | 6 |
| 7C3405 | 3:30PM | 7:25PM | 6 | 7C3406 | 8:50AM | 2:50PM | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 |
| 7C3405 | 3:50PM | 7:45PM | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 | OZ623 | 9:00AM | 2:30PM | 3, 6 |
| OZ624 | 4:00PM | 7:40PM | 3, 6 | TW9307 | 9:15AM | 2:30PM | Daily |
| SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) | | | | BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN | | | |
| 7C3451 | 3:00PM | 6:20PM | 3, 7 | 7C3452 | 9:00AM | 2:00PM | 3, 7 |
| BX621 | 3:10PM | 6:30PM | 3, 7 | BX622 | 8:00AM | 1:10PM | 3, 7 |
| LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. <i>(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)</i> | | | | | | | |

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

| SAIPAN TO ROTA | | | | | | SAIPAN TO TINIAN | | | | | |
|----------------|--------|--------|---------|---------|--------------------|------------------|--------|--------|---------|---------|-----------|
| FLIGHT # | FROM | TO | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY | FLIGHT # | FROM | TO | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
| 1301 | SAIPAN | ROTA | 8:30 | 9:00 | Daily | 1202 | SAIPAN | TINIAN | 8:00 | 8:15 | Daily |
| 1302 | SAIPAN | ROTA | 11:00 | 11:30 | Mon/Wed/Fri | 1203 | SAIPAN | TINIAN | 9:00 | 9:15 | Daily |
| 1302 | SAIPAN | ROTA | 12:00 | 12:30 | Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun | 1204 | SAIPAN | TINIAN | 10:00 | 10:15 | Daily |
| 1303 | SAIPAN | ROTA | 15:30 | 16:00 | Daily | 1208 | SAIPAN | TINIAN | 14:00 | 14:15 | Daily |
| ROTA TO SAIPAN | | | | | | 1209 | SAIPAN | TINIAN | 15:00 | 15:15 | Daily |
| FLIGHT # | FROM | TO | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY | 1210 | SAIPAN | TINIAN | 16:00 | 16:15 | Daily |
| 3101 | ROTA | SAIPAN | 9:30 | 10:00 | Daily | 1211 | SAIPAN | TINIAN | 17:00 | 17:15 | Daily |
| 3102 | ROTA | SAIPAN | 13:00 | 13:30 | Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun | | | | | | |
| 3102 | ROTA | SAIPAN | 14:00 | 14:30 | Mon/Wed/Fri | | | | | | |
| 3103 | ROTA | SAIPAN | 16:30 | 17:00 | Daily | | | | | | |
| ROTA TO GUAM | | | | | | TINIAN TO SAIPAN | | | | | |
| LIGHT # | FROM | TO | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY | FLIGHT # | FROM | TO | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
| 3401 | ROTA | GUAM | 12:00 | 12:30 | Mon/Wed/Fri | 2102 | TINIAN | SAIPAN | 8:30 | 8:45 | Daily |
| GUAM TO ROTA | | | | | | 2103 | TINIAN | SAIPAN | 9:30 | 9:45 | Daily |
| FLIGHT # | FROM | TO | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY | 2104 | TINIAN | SAIPAN | 10:30 | 10:45 | Daily |
| 4301 | GUAM | ROTA | 13:00 | 13:30 | Mon/Wed/Fri | 2108 | TINIAN | SAIPAN | 14:30 | 14:45 | Daily |
| | | | | | | 2109 | TINIAN | SAIPAN | 15:30 | 15:45 | Daily |
| | | | | | | 2110 | TINIAN | SAIPAN | 16:30 | 16:45 | Daily |
| | | | | | | 2111 | TINIAN | SAIPAN | 17:30 | 17:45 | Daily |

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Business

Biden signs massive climate and health care legislation

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden signed Democrats' landmark climate change and health care bill into law on Tuesday, delivering what he has called the "final piece" of his pared-down domestic agenda, as he aims to boost his party's standing with voters less than three months before the midterm elections.

The legislation includes the most substantial federal investment in history to fight climate change—some \$375 billion over the decade—and would cap prescription drug costs at \$2,000 out-of-pocket annually for Medicare recipients. It also would help an estimated 13 million Americans pay for health care insurance by extending subsidies provided during the coronavirus pandemic.

The measure is paid for by new taxes on large companies and stepped-up IRS enforcement of wealthy individuals and entities, with additional funds going to reduce the federal deficit.

In a triumphant signing event



at the White House, Biden pointed to the law as proof that democracy—no matter how long or messy the process—

can still deliver for voters in America as he road-tested a line he will likely repeat later this fall ahead of the midterms: "The American people won, and the special interests lost."

"In this historic moment, Democrats sided with the American people, and every single Republican in the Congress sided with the special interests in this vote," Biden said, repeatedly seizing on the contrast between his party and the GOP. "Every single one."

The House on Friday approved the measure on a party-line 220-207 vote. It passed the

Senate days earlier with Vice President Kamala Harris breaking a 50-50 tie in that chamber.

"In normal times, getting these bills done would be a huge achievement," Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said during the White House ceremony. "But to do it now, with only 50 Democratic votes in the Senate, over an intransigent Republican minority, is nothing short of amazing."

Biden signed the bill into law during a small ceremony in the State Dining Room of the White House, sandwiched be-

tween his return from a six-day beachside vacation in South Carolina and his departure for his home in Wilmington, Delaware. He plans to hold a larger "celebration" for the legislation on Sept. 6 once lawmakers return to Washington.

The signing caps a spurt of legislative productivity for Biden and Congress, who in three months have approved legislation on veterans' benefits, the semiconductor industry and gun checks for young buyers. The president and lawmakers have also responded to Russia's invasion of Ukraine

President Joe Biden signs the Democrats' landmark climate change and health care bill in the State Dining Room of the White House in Washington, Tuesday, Aug. 16, 2022, as from left, Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer of N.Y., House Majority Whip Rep. James Clyburn, D-S.C., Rep. Frank Pallone, D-N.J., and Rep. Kathy Castor, D-Fla., watch. **AP**

and overwhelmingly supported NATO membership for Sweden and Finland.

With Biden's approval rating lagging, Democrats are hoping that the string of successes will jump-start their chances of maintaining control in Washington in the November midterms. The 79-year-old president aims to restore his own standing with voters as he contemplates a reelection bid.

The White House announced Monday that it was going to deploy Biden and members of his Cabinet on a "Building a Better America Tour" to promote the recent victories. One of Biden's trips will be to Ohio, where he'll view the groundbreaking of a semiconductor plant that will benefit from the recent law to bolster production of such computer chips. He will also stop in Pennsylvania to promote his administration's plan for safer communities, a visit that had been planned the same day he tested positive for COVID-19 last month.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Amazon to raise seller fees for holidays amid rising costs

NEW YORK (AP)—Amazon is raising charges on third-party sellers again—this time adding a holiday fee for merchants who use the company's fulfillment services to pack and ship items to customers. From Oct. 15 to Jan. 14, sellers will be hit with an average fee of \$0.35 per item sold using Amazon's fulfillment services in the U.S. and Canada, according to a notice the company sent to merchants Tuesday. It's the second fee hike imposed on merchants this year by the online retail behemoth. In April, the company added a 5% "fuel and inflation" surcharge to offset rising gas costs and inflation, which is running close to its highest level in four decades. To use Amazon's fulfillment services, merchants already have to pay a fee that varies based on an item's size, weight or category.

American Airlines places deposit on 20 supersonic planes

DALLAS (AP)—American Airlines has agreed to buy up to 20 supersonic jets and put down a non-refundable deposit on the planes that are still on the drawing board and years away from flying. Neither American nor the manufacturer Boom Supersonic would provide financial details Tuesday, including the

amount of American's deposit. American, which also took options for 40 more Boom Overture planes, becomes the second U.S. customer for Boom after a similar announcement last year from United Airlines for 15 jets. It has been nearly 20 years since the last supersonic passenger flight by Concorde, the British-French plane that failed to catch on because of the high cost—both for passengers and airlines.

Police detail Vegas airport chaos, California man's arrest

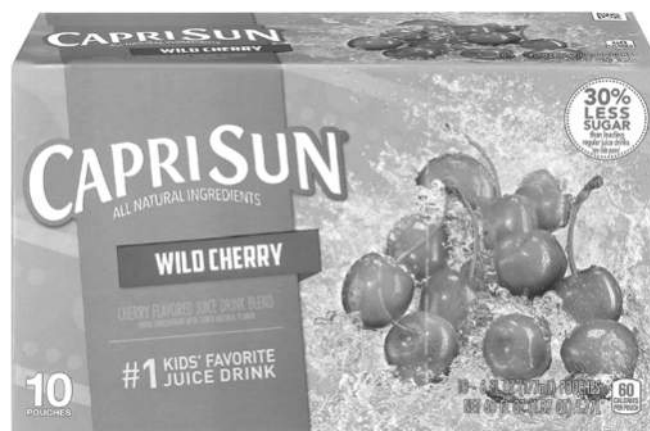
LAS VEGAS (AP)—Two airline ticket agents were hurt when a 33-year-old California man breached security at a busy Las Vegas airport on Sunday, sparking panic among commercial travelers, flight delays and cancellations, police said in a report made public Tuesday. Neither injury was described as serious, according to an arrest report that compared the incident at Harry Reid International Airport to terrorism. Stefan Mathias Hutchison, 33, of Oakland, told arresting officers he wanted to go home immediately, not wait for a flight on Monday. Police said he had also been arrested Saturday at the airport on misdemeanor charges after pushing past Transportation Security Administration screeners in what police also called a security breach.

Kraft Heinz recalling contaminated Capri Sun juice pouches

Kraft Heinz is recalling thousands of pouches of Capri Sun in the U.S. after some cleaning solution accidentally mixed with the juice on a production line.

The company said it's recalling about 5,760 cases of Capri Sun Wild Cherry flavored juice blend. The "Best When Used By" date on the packages is June 25, 2023.

Kraft Heinz said the diluted cleaning solution is used on its food processing equipment. The company said it discovered that the solution had acci-



This photo provided by Kraft Heinz shows the packaging of Wild Cherry flavor Capri Sun. **AP**

dently mixed with the juice after getting consumer complaints about the juice's taste.

The recall does not apply to products sold outside of the U.S.

Kraft Heinz, which is co-headquartered in Pittsburgh and Chicago, said in a statement Friday it is working with retailers to remove the product from circulation. Consumers who bought the affected Capri Sun should not consume it and should return it to the store where it was purchased to receive a refund. **(AP)**

Airbnb is rolling out new screening tools to stop parties

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Airbnb says it will use new methods to spot and block people who try to use the short-term rental service to throw a party.

The company said Tuesday it has introduced technology that examines the would-be renter's history on Airbnb, how far they live from the home they want to rent, whether they're renting for

a weekday or weekend, and other factors.

Airbnb said the screening system that it is rolling out for listings in the United States and Canada has been tested since last October in parts of Australia, where it produced a 35% drop in unauthorized parties.

The San Francisco-based company said the technology is designed to prevent a cus-

tomers request for reservation from ever reaching the host of the property involved. Airbnb said people blocked from renting an entire home might be able to book a single room because the host is more likely to be around.

Airbnb has been under growing pressure to clamp down on parties since 2019, when a Halloween house party in a San Francisco sub-

urb ended with five people dead in a shooting.

The following year, Airbnb announced a worldwide party ban at its listings and banned people under 25 from renting an entire house near their home unless they had a record of positive reviews on the site. The party ban was initially cast as a temporary health measure during the pandemic but was made permanent in June.

Nation

Prehistoric fish may spawn in Georgia: 1st time in 50 years

By JANET McCONAUGHEY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Scientists and students embarking on a census of Georgia lake sturgeon have found three females with mature eggs — an indication the armored “living fossils” may be reproducing in that state for the first time in a half-century.

“It’s exciting because it’s confirmation that they are becoming mature and trying to spawn,” Martin J. Hamel, an associate professor at the University of Georgia Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, said in a recent news release.

Fossils indicate that the spade-nosed fish with a bottom-mounted vacuum hose instead of jaws has existed for more than 136 million years, according to scientists.

One of nine sturgeon species and subspecies found in the U.S., lake sturgeon live in 18 states and five Canadian provinces in the St. Lawrence, Hudson Bay, Great Lakes and Mississippi River watersheds,



This photo provided by University of Georgia graduate research assistant Matt Phillips, shows research technician Hunter Rider of Opelika, Ala., holding a lake sturgeon with its vacuum-hose-like mouth extended on the Coosa River, on July 14, 2022, at Rome, Ga. AP

according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Pollution, habitat destruction and harvesting for flesh and caviar have so diminished their numbers that the U.S.

Fish and Wildlife Service is considering federal protection for the species.

Sturgeons’ bone-plated bodies did so much damage to fishing nets that commer-

cial fishers hauled large numbers out in the 1800s and left them on river and lake banks, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources recounts on its website.

Dams, which keep the big fish from migrating from lakes to the rivers where they spawn, also reduced their numbers. Now lake sturgeon are at less than 1% of historic levels.

State protections, such as fishing limits, and stocking programs, some run by Native American tribes, have helped sturgeon.

By the 1970s, lake sturgeon had been wiped out of north-west Georgia’s Coosa River basin—the only place where they were found in Georgia.

The state Department of Natural Resources began reintroducing lake sturgeon 20 years ago, after the Clean Water Act cleaned up the river, Hamel said.

Females take 20 to 25 years to mature and produce the black, glistening eggs that people love to eat, accord-

ing to Michigan Sea Grant. So until such eggs turned up this year in females being implanted with radio telemetry tags to track their movement, nobody knew if Georgia’s sturgeon were surviving long enough to reproduce.

“Because lake sturgeon take a long time to mature and then reproduce intermittently — every two to three years — we really need a robust population of varying size and age classes,” Hamel said.

The current population assessment is the largest since Georgia first collected eggs from fish in Wisconsin, raised them in a hatchery and released them into the Coosa in 2002. State natural resources staff, working with their Wisconsin counterparts, have done so nearly every year since.

Dog, missing 2 months, found alive inside Missouri cave

By JIM SALTER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jeff Bohnert had all but given up on seeing his poodle-hound mix again after she went missing in early June. Two months later, he got a text from a neighbor: People exploring a nearby cave found a dog. Could it be Abby?

Bohnert doubted it, but still curious, he went to the cave site near his rural Missouri home. That’s when he saw the picture one of the rescuers took.

“I said, ‘that’s my dog,’” Bohnert recalled Monday.

Making Abby’s tale even more amazing is the fact that she’s just weeks shy of turning 14. Yet somehow, she managed to survive nearly 60 days out on her own, apparently much or all of it in a barren, pitch-dark, 58-degree Fahrenheit (14-degree Celsius) cave.

Abby and Bohnert’s other dog, Summer, do everything together, including misbehave.

On June 9, the pair ran away from home, Bohnert recalled. It had happened before, and in the rural area near Perryville in eastern Missouri, it was generally no big deal. The dogs would scamper through the fields, maybe chase something, then head home.

When Bohnert awoke the next morning, Summer was back home but Abby was not.

“They never separate,” he said. “I figured something bad had happened. I mean, she’s old. She could just get over-



This photo provided by Gerry Keene shows a 13-year-old dog named Abby that was found by cavers on Aug. 6, 2022, at a cave in Perryville, Mo. AP

come by the heat.”

Bohnert posted about his missing dog on Facebook, reached out to neighbors and contacted police, but no one had seen Abby.

On Aug. 6, Gerry Keene and five other adults, along with five children, had just entered the Berome Moore Cave, planning a day of exploring. One of the kids ran ahead of the group and yelled back to his dad, “There’s a dog in here.”

“Their dad was like, no there’s not,” Keene said.

Yes, there was. “She was just lying there curled up in a ball,” Keene recalled. “She lifted her head and looked at us but she didn’t respond to verbal commands. She looked like she was pretty close to being done.”

Keene enlisted the help of another caver who happened to be there, Rick Haley. They

knew Abby couldn’t make the estimated 500-foot walk back to the entrance, especially since it was through tight passageways and up a steep incline.

Haley was trained in cave rescues, and he retrieved a duffel bag and a blanket from his truck. They put the blanket inside the bag, then the dog, who immediately took to the warm blanket after weeks laying in the cold mud.

Still, getting Abby out was tricky given her fragility.

“It was critical that we not give her any rough handling,” Haley said. In the rocky areas through small passageways, “We would carry her short distance, set her down, then kind of move in front of her, reach back, pick her up, and put her in front of us.” He described it as “kind of a leap-frog kind of thing.”

Soon after initially finding Abby, Keene briefly went to

a few homes nearby to see if anyone was missing a dog. One neighbor reached out to Bohnert, who lives close enough to the cave site that he can see it from his home.

He went there assuming it couldn’t be Abby — how could a 13-year-old dog have survived such an ordeal?

To his amazement, she did, and roughly an hour-and-a-half after the rescue began, she was out. One of the rescuers gave Abby a bite of beef.

“She almost ate his finger off,” Keene said. Almost immediately, she began to perk up.

Bohnert figures Abby ended up in the cave after falling into a sinkhole or a hidden entrance. Haley said there were paw prints everywhere, indicating she initially tried to get out.

After that, Haley and Bohnert believe she hunkered down, able to essentially live off her own body fat.

“I think she was just in a preservation mode,” Bohnert said.

Abby normally weighs about 50 pounds (23 kilograms), Bohnert said, but he guessed she lost half her body weight in the cave. Since her rescue, she has regained weight and started to get back the voice she likely lost barking for help.

She’s also wagging her tail again, showing she’s putting the trauma behind her.

“It’s amazing how she’s springing back already,” Bohnert said. “She’s acting like herself again.”

ACROSS THE NATION

Memphis hospital locks down after nearby shooting of 6

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Six people were wounded in a shooting that led to a lockdown of a hospital early Tuesday in Memphis, Tennessee, authorities said. Memphis police said the six were shot in a vehicle shortly after midnight near Methodist North Hospital. Two teens were taken to Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital in critical condition, police said in a statement. One was released and another remained hospitalized in critical condition late Tuesday, police said. Four other people were taken in critical condition to Regional One Health Medical Center. Police said one of those shot has been released from there.

Trump foe Liz Cheney defeated in Wyoming GOP primary

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP)—Wyoming Rep. Liz Cheney, Donald Trump’s fiercest Republican adversary in Congress, was defeated in a GOP primary Tuesday, falling to a rival backed by the former president in a rout that reinforced his grip on the party’s base. The third-term congresswoman and her allies entered the day downbeat about her prospects, aware that Trump’s backing gave Harriet Hageman considerable lift in the state where he won by the largest margin during the 2020 campaign. Cheney was already looking ahead to a political future beyond Capitol Hill that could

include a 2024 presidential run, potentially putting her on another collision course with Trump. Cheney described her loss as the beginning of a new chapter in her political career as she addressed a small collection of supporters, including her father, former Vice President Dick Cheney, on the edge of a vast field flanked by mountains and bales of hay.

Rudy Giuliani set to testify in Georgia election probe

ATLANTA (AP)—Rudy Giuliani is scheduled to appear in an Atlanta courthouse to testify before a special grand jury that is investigating attempts by former President Donald Trump and others to overturn his 2020 election defeat in Georgia. It’s unclear how much the former New York mayor and attorney for Trump will be willing to say now that his lawyers have been informed he’s a target of the investigation. Questioning will take place behind closed doors Wednesday because the special grand jury proceedings are secret. Yet Giuliani’s appearance is another high-profile step in a rapidly escalating investigation that has ensnared several Trump allies and brought heightened scrutiny to the desperate and ultimately failed efforts to overturn Democrat Joe Biden’s 2020 election win. It’s one of several investigations into Trump’s actions in office as he lays the groundwork for another run at the White House in 2024.

Asia

Thailand's restive south is hit by a wave of arson, bombings

HAT YAI, Thailand (AP)—Thailand's southernmost provinces, which for almost two decades have been the scene of an active Muslim separatist insurgency, were hit Tuesday night by a wave of arson and bombing attacks, officials said.

At least 17 attacks occurred in Pattani, Narathiwat and Yala provinces, mostly at convenience stores and gas stations, military spokesperson Pramote Promin said Wednesday.

Three civilians were reported injured. There have been no claims of responsibility.

More than 7,300 people have been killed since the insurgency erupted in 2004 in the three provinces, the only ones with Muslim majorities in the Buddhist-dominated country. Attacks have also taken place in neighboring Songkhla province.

Muslim residents have long charged that they are treated like second-class citizens

in Thailand, and separatist movements have been periodically active for decades. Heavy-handed crackdowns have fueled the discontent.

The attacks are the most high-profile ones since early April, when the Thai government and BRN — Barisan Revolusi Nasional Melayu Patani, the insurgent group believed to be the biggest — agreed to halt violence during the Muslim holy period of Ramadan.

'Seoul won't seek own nuclear deterrent'

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol said Wednesday his government has no plans to pursue its own nuclear deterrent in the face of growing North Korean nuclear threats, as he urged the North to return to dialogue aimed at exchanging denuclearization steps for economic benefits.

Yoon's comments during a news conference came hours after South Korea's military detected the North firing two cruise missiles from a region near its capital Pyongyang toward its western waters, extending a torrid streak in weapons testing. South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff didn't immediately confirm other details, including how far the weapons flew.

Tensions could rise further next week as the United States and South Korea kick off their biggest combined military training in years to counter the North Korean threat. The North describes such drills as invasion rehearsals and has often responded to them with missile tests or other provocations.

Yoon told reporters South Korea doesn't desire po-

litical change in North Korea that's brought by force and he called for diplomacy aimed at building sustainable peace between the rivals amid tensions over the North's accelerating weapons program.

Yoon's comments came days after he proposed an "audacious" economic assistance package to North Korea if it abandons its nuclear weapons program, while avoiding harsh criticism of the North after it threatened "deadly" retaliation over a COVID-19 outbreak it blames on the South.

Yoon's proposal for large-scale aid in food and health-care and modernizing power and port infrastructure resembled previous South Korean offers that were rejected by North Korea, which is speeding its development of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles, seen by leader Kim Jong Un as his strongest guarantee of survival.

Still, Yoon expressed hope for "meaningful dialogue" with North Korea over his plan and stressed that Seoul



Yoon

is willing to provide corresponding economic rewards at each step of a phased denuclearization process if the North commits to a genuine "roadmap" toward fully abandoning its weapons program.

"We are not telling them to 'denuclearize' entirely first and then we will provide," Yoon said. "What we are saying is that we will provide the things we can in correspondence to their steps if they only show a firm determination (toward denuclearization)."

Inter-Korean ties have worsened amid a stalemate in larger nuclear negotiations between North Korea and the U.S. that derailed in early 2019 because of disagreements over a relaxation of crippling U.S.-led sanctions on the North in exchange for disarmament steps.

North Korea has ramped up its missile testing to a record pace in 2022, launching more than 30 ballistic weapons so far, including its first intercontinental ballistic missiles in nearly five years.

Soldiers and police cordoned off the area and began searching for the attackers.

UN envoy travels to strife-torn Myanmar for the first time

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The U.N. special envoy for Myanmar traveled to the Southeast Asian nation on Monday for the first time since she was appointed to the post last October. The trip by Noleen Heyzer followed the U.N. Security Council's latest call for an immediate end to all forms of violence and for un-

impeded humanitarian access in the strife-torn country. Heyzer "will focus on addressing the deteriorating situation and immediate concerns as well as other priority areas of her mandate," U.N. spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said. He gave no details on whether Heyzer will meet with Myanmar's military rulers or the country's imprisoned former leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, a longtime U.N. demand. Suu Kyi was convicted earlier Monday on more corruption charges, adding six years to her earlier 11-year prison sentence.

World

Explosions rock Crimea in a suspected Ukrainian attack



Smoke rises over the site of explosion at an ammunition storage of Russian army near the village of Mayskoye, Crimea, Tuesday, Aug. 16, 2022.

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Explosions and fires ripped through an ammunition depot in Russian-occupied Crimea on Tuesday in the second suspected Ukrainian attack on the peninsula in just over a week, forcing the evacuation of more than 3,000 people.

Russia blamed the blasts in the village of Mayskoye on an "act of sabotage," without naming the perpetrators.

Separately, the Russian business newspaper Kommersant quoted residents as

saying plumes of black smoke also rose over an air base in Crimea's Gvardeyskoye.

Ukraine stopped short of publicly claiming responsibility for any of the blasts, including those that destroyed nine Russian planes at another Crimean air base last week. Russia seized the Crimean Peninsula in 2014 and has used it to launch attacks against Ukraine in the war that began nearly six months ago.

If Ukrainian forces were

behind the explosions, that would represent a significant escalation in the war. Such attacks could also indicate that Ukrainian operatives are able to penetrate deeply into Russian-occupied territory.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy alluded to Ukrainian attacks behind enemy lines when he included individuals "who oppose the occupiers in their rear" in a list of people he thanked for supporting the country's war effort.

Scotland makes period products free for all

LONDON (AP)—A law has taken effect in Scotland to ensure period products are available free of charge to anyone who needs them.

The Scottish government said it became the first in the world to legally protect the right to access free period products when its Period Products Act came into force Monday.

Under the new law, schools, colleges and universities as well as local government bodies must

make a range of period products such as tampons and sanitary pads available for free in their bathrooms. The Scottish government already invested millions of pounds since 2017 to fund free period products in educational institutions, but the law makes it a legal requirement.

A mobile phone app also helps people find the nearest place—such as the local library or community center—where they can pick up period products.

"Providing access to free period products is fundamental to equality and dignity, and removes the financial barriers to accessing them," Scottish Social Justice Secretary Shona Robison said.

"This is more important than ever at a time when people are making difficult choices due to the cost of living crisis and we never want anyone to be in a position where they cannot access period products," she added.

Reports: Turkish airstrike in north Syria kills 11

BEIRUT (AP)—Turkey carried out an airstrike in northern Syria on Tuesday near its border killing at least 11 people, including Syrian government soldiers, an opposition war monitor and a Kurdish media outlet said.

The attack happened just west of the northern town of Kobani and comes amid tensions in northern Syria between U.S.-backed Kurdish fighters and Turkey-backed opposition gunmen.

Syrian state media quoted an unnamed military official as saying that the Turkish

airstrikes killed three soldiers and wounded six. The official said Syrian troops retaliated by targeting Turkish army positions and those of Turkey-backed opposition fighters.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory, an opposition war monitor, said the Turkish airstrike killed 11 people, adding that it was not immediately clear if they were all Syrian soldiers. It said eight people were also wounded.

Hawar News, the news agency for the semi-autonomous Kurdish areas in Syria, reported that 16 Syrian sol-

diers were killed, while another Kurdish news agency, North Press Agency, said 22 soldiers were killed.

Discrepancies in casualty figures immediately after attacks are not uncommon in Syria.

Turkey's defense ministry said Tuesday that 13 suspected Kurdish militants were killed after Turkish artillery retaliated against a deadly attack on a Turkish border post near the town of Birecik in the border province of Sanliurfa. The ministry said operations in the region were continuing.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Police suspect militants fatally shot local Hindu in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—Assailants killed a Kashmiri Hindu man and wounded his brother in a shooting Tuesday that police blamed on militants fighting Indian rule in the disputed region. Police said suspected militants fired at two Kashmiri Hindu brothers inside an apple orchard in the Shopian district in the south of Indian-controlled Kashmir. Both were taken to a hospital with critical gunshot wounds where one died, police said in a statement.

Environment

Nepal's holy Bagmati River

choked with black sewage, trash

AP
A woman walks over drainage pipes that flow into the Bagmati River in Kathmandu, Nepal, Wednesday, June 1, 2022.

By **BINAJ GURUBACHARYA**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP)—High on a mountain in the Himalayas, pristine drops fall from the mouth of a tiger statue installed at a stream thought to form the headwaters of the Bagmati River, long revered as having the power to purify souls. From there it wends its way downhill past verdant forests and merges with other waterways, irrigating fields of rice, vegetables and other crops that are a livelihood for many Nepalese.

But as the Bagmati reaches the valley of Kathmandu, the capital, its color changes from clear to brown and then to black, choked with debris, its contents undrinkable and unsuitable even for cleaning. During the dry season, an overwhelming stench pervades the area by its banks.

Tainted by garbage and raw sewage that is dumped directly into the waterway, Nepal's holiest river has deteriorated so greatly that today it is also the country's most polluted, dramatically altering how the city of about 3 million interacts with the Bagmati on daily, cultural and spiritual levels.

In the capital, the Bagmati's sludge oozes past several sacred sites, including the Pashupatinath Temple, declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1979. The sprawling complex comprises a golden-roofed main temple dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva, surrounded by hundreds of smaller ones.

Hindus flock to the riverbanks in Kathmandu to worship at shrines and celebrate festivals. Women dip in the river to wash away sins during Rishipanchami, a day for wor-

ship of the seven sages revered as enlightened beings guiding humanity through the ages. Visitors also wade in during the festival of Chhath, praying to the sun god Surya. During Teej, married women come to pray for the health and prosperity of their husbands, and single women, to find a good one.

Families have long carried the bodies of deceased loved ones to these banks to wash the feet of the dead on a stone slab and sprinkle their faces with river water. Beliefs hold that that washes away a person's sins and sends their soul to heaven before their physical remains are cremated atop heaps of wood, also alongside the river, and their ashes scattered into the waters.

People still bring departed loved ones to the Bagmati, but many no longer dare to have any contact with its contents. While the bodies are still cremated here, they're cleansed with purified water bought in nearby stores.

"That is no more now. The water is so dirty and stinks. People are forced to bring

bottled water and do the rituals," 59-year-old Mithu Lama, who has been working with her husband at the Teku ghat cremation grounds since she married him at age 15, said on a recent day as she stacked wood for a funeral pyre.

Grieving families who resort to bottled water typically are loath to discuss it openly, for having failed to follow the sacred funeral tradition.

People have also traditionally collected river water to sprinkle on their homes to purify them. The river is significant to Buddhists, too, many of whom cremate bodies on the Bagmati's banks.

Born and raised next to the Bagmati, Lama recalled using its waters for cooking, bathing, washing and even drinking. Today that feels like a long-ago dream dashed by decades of dumping human waste and refuse, and one she doesn't expect to see again anytime soon.

"I now have serious doubt that it will be cleaned in my lifetime," Lama said. "Not that there has not been any efforts, there have been several

cleaning campaigns, but there are more people dirtying it. People are the problem."

Indeed, there have been efforts by both private volunteers and the government to clean up the river. Among those initiatives, every Saturday for the past seven years hundreds of volunteers have gathered in Kathmandu to pick up garbage and remove trash from the Bagmati.

There almost every weekend is Mala Kharel, an executive member of the governmental High Powered Committee for Integrated Development of the Bagmati Civilization, which was set up to help clean up the river. She volunteers her time not only for cleanup duty but to raise awareness among the population about avoiding pollution.

Kharel said that over the years the campaign has succeeded in collecting about 80% of garbage along the riverbank, recovering all sorts of refuse from decaying animals to even, shockingly, the bodies of dead babies dumped there. But the pickup efforts admit-

tedly fall short of perfection, in part since frequent disruptions to trash collection services encourage more dumping than they can keep up with.

In addition, many thousands of people have built huts, shacks and brick homes illegally along the river and refuse to leave.

As for the sewage, according to Kharel, the committee is working on several projects including the construction of canals and pipes, built parallel to the river, to connect to sewer lines and prevent their waste from reaching the Bagmati. It also is considering a treatment plant, and working on upstream dams where rainwater can be captured and stored during the monsoon season and released during the dry months to flush the river, moving the waste downstream from Kathmandu.

Work on the pipe and canal system began around 2013, but no completion date has been announced. Construction on two dams is ongoing—but said to be near done—while another remains in the process of getting started. But cam-

paigners have high hopes for the near term.

"In the next 10 years, I am hoping the river will be flowing clear and the banks will be clean and lined with trees," Kharel said. "We are working hard with this target."

That optimism isn't shared by everyone. Some environmentalists aren't sure the dams, for instance, will be of much help.

"There is too much expectations from these dams. Bagmati is a natural river and not a canal that can be cleaned so easily," said Madhukar Upadhyaya, a watershed expert who studies the river closely and said its bed no longer has any sand left.

Instead, today it's lined with clay and mixed with chemicals dumped by industrial activity such as handwoven carpet makers, popular in the 1990s but now banned from the capital.

"So much damage has already been done to it," Upadhyaya said, "that it can perhaps be cleaned to some degree but not restored to its past glory."

Hindu priest Pandit Shivahari Subedi, who has spent three decades on the stone steps between the Bagmati and the Pashupatinath Temple performing rituals for devotees, takes a similarly dim view of the various cleanup campaigns he has seen. Divine intervention, he believes, is needed.

"There have been too many assurances from political leaders and top people, but they have all not been fulfilled. ... It looks like unless the gods create some kind of miracle, the Bagmati will not return to its glory," Subedi said. "To clean the water naturally, by the grace of god, there needs to be huge flooding of water flushing the dirt."

Environmental groups sue US over Puerto Rico dredging plan

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—The Center for Biological Diversity filed a lawsuit Tuesday against the U.S. government, accusing it of endangering wildlife and humans as it prepares to dredge and expand Puerto Rico's biggest bay to accommodate massive tankers that will serve a new liquid natural gas terminal.

The Arizona-based nonprofit said the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' \$60 million project would remove 2.2 million cubic yards of seafloor sediment to deepen

and widen San Juan Bay's shipping channels.

Dredging would last more than a year, and some of the material could be transported to the nearby Condado Lagoon Estuarine Reserve, which is popular with locals and tourists who swim, snorkel and paddleboard its waters, where manatees and starfish are a common sight.

The lawsuit also states that several "overburdened environmental justice communities" near and around the U.S. territory's north coast could

be at risk from pollution, explosions and oil spills if the dredging is completed and the terminal starts operating. It noted that the Corps did not consult with communities that could be affected.

"This project will destroy corals and threaten communities and deepen the island's dangerous dependence on fossil fuels," Catherine Kilduff, an attorney for the center, told The Associated Press.

The center and two environmental groups — CORALATIONS and El Puente de

Williamsburg Inc.—filed the lawsuit against the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and others. They have 60 days to respond, and then both sides would make arguments before a judge issues a decision that can be appealed.

Spokeswomen for the Corps and for Fish & Wildlife Service said the agencies are unable to comment on pending litigation. The Corps previously stated that dredged materials in the Condado Lagoon would fill depressions and create seagrass habitat.

Life & Style

Ezra Miller seeks treatment for 'mental health issues'

NEW YORK (AP)—After a string of arrests and erratic behavior that spanned Hawaii to Vermont, "Flash" actor Ezra Miller said they have begun treatment for "complex mental health issues."



Miller

The 29-year-old Miller, who identifies as non-binary, issued a statement late Monday. On Sept. 26, Miller is due to appear for arraignment in Vermont Superior Court after being cited for felony bur-

glary in Stamford, Vermont. Authorities last week said Miller had taken several bottles of alcohol from a residence while the homeowners weren't present.

"Having recently gone through a time of intense crisis, I

now understand that I am suffering complex mental health issues and have begun ongoing treatment," Miller said in a statement. "I want to apologize to everyone that I have

alarmed and upset with my past behavior. I am committed to doing the necessary work to get back to a healthy, safe and productive stage in my life."

Miller was arrested twice earlier this year in Hawaii, including for disorderly conduct and harassment at a karaoke bar. The second incident was for second-degree assault.

The parents of 18-year-old Tokata Iron Eyes, a Native American activist, earlier this year filed a protection order against Miller, accusing the actor of grooming their child and other inappropriate behavior

with her as a minor from the age of 12. Tokata Iron Eyes has disputed that.

Representatives for Miller have not responded to requests for comment on those allegations or previous arrests.

Miller's personal troubles have been a particularly pressing issue for Warner Bros. and DC Films. After appearing in several "Justice League" movies as the Flash, Miller stars in an upcoming standalone film about the speedy superhero due out next summer. Principal photography on "The Flash" was completed last year. Da-

vid Zaslav, chief executive of Warner Bros. has said that the studio is committed to releasing the film.

Former Israeli PM Netanyahu has a memoir coming this November

NEW YORK (AP)—Former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has a memoir coming out this fall. "Bibi: My Story" will be published Nov. 22, three weeks after parliamentary elections are to be held in Israel.

"Born a year after the founding of the Jewish state, I have dedicated my life to combat the forces that seek its destruction and make peace with those that do not," Netanyahu, 72, said in a statement released Tuesday by Threshold Editions, a division of Simon & Schuster that publishes conservative books.

"My story is one of tragedy and triumph, setbacks and successes, lessons learned and loved ones cherished. It is woven with that of Israel, which has proven that faith and resolve can overcome insurmountable odds to forge a brilliant future."

Other Threshold authors have



GALLERY VIA AP

This book cover image released by Gallery Books shows "Bibi: My Story" by Benjamin Netanyahu.

included former Vice President Dick Cheney and former President Donald Trump, a close ally of Netanyahu's while he was in the White House. Netanyahu has previously written "A Durable Peace" and "Fighting Terrorism," among other books.

'Pop Idol' and stage star Darius Campbell Danesh dies at 41

LONDON (AP)—Performer Darius Campbell Danesh, who went from a British reality television show to a stage and music career, has died at the age of 41.

The singer's family said Tuesday that he was found unresponsive in his apartment in Rochester, Minnesota on Aug. 11 and pronounced dead by the local medical examiners' office.

"The local police department have confirmed that there

were no signs of intent or suspicious circumstances," the family said. "The cause of his sudden death is unknown at this stage while medical examinations continue."

Born in Glasgow to a Scottish mother and Iranian father, Campbell Danesh appeared on reality show "Popstars" in 2001, making a splash with



Danesh

his intense interpretation of Britney Spears' "...Baby One More Time."

He had more success later the same year on "Pop Idol," an early Simon Cowell reality-talent show hybrid that aimed to find a new sing-

ing star. He came third behind Gareth Gates and Will Young but topped U.K. charts in

2002 with the single "Colourblind," from his debut album "Dive In."

Campbell Danesh went on to major roles in musicals, including West End productions of "Chicago" and "Guys and Dolls," and starred as Rhett Butler in a musical stage adaptation of "Gone With the Wind." The big-budget show opened in London in April 2008 but closed two months later after poor reviews and ticket sales.

'The Butler' author Wil Haygood wins prestigious book award

DAYTON, Ohio (AP)—Writer Wil Haygood, author of multiple nonfiction books chronicling the lives of 20th-century Black Americans including "The Butler," has won a prestigious book award.

The Dayton Literary Peace Prize announced Wednesday that Haygood — himself originally from Columbus, Ohio — will receive the Ambassador Richard C. Holbrooke Distinguished

Achievement Award.

"For three decades, Haygood has captured the sweep of American culture, focusing on the rarely or never-told stories of the Black experience with the analysis that this nation so desperately needs," said Sharon Rab, founder and chair of the Dayton Literary Peace Prize Foundation.

Haygood's book "The Butler" is based on the life of Eugene Allen, who served

eight presidents at the White House. It was adapted into a 2013 film starring Forest Whitaker.

His other works include "Showdown," about the nomination battle that Thurgood Marshall faced before becoming the first Black U.S. Supreme Court justice, and "Colorization," a century-long look at the lives of Black actors, writers and directors in Hollywood.

The literary prize was inspired by the 1995 Dayton Peace Accords that ended the war in Bosnia, and celebrates the power of literature to foster peace, social justice and understanding.

Haygood will receive the award on Nov. 13 from Dayton native Clarence Page, a Pulitzer Prize-winning syndicated columnist, journalist and Chicago Tribune editorial board member.

Fox News gets into movies

NEW YORK (AP)—Fox News is getting into the movies by producing its first feature film, an adaptation of "The Shell Collector" from romance novelist Nancy Naigle.

The movie, which debuts Sept. 1, is the first of four films planned over the next year on the Fox Nation streaming service, the network said Tuesday. The next film will be timed for the holidays.

"The Shell Collector" is

described as a heartwarming story about a widow with two children who attempts to find a new life in their seaside town following the death of her husband. Caitlin Clark, Christopher Russell and Jennifer Higgins are featured actors in the film, produced with Cartel Pictures.

Fox follows CNN, which has its own active CNN Films division that makes documentaries.

Teenager's behavior makes grandma want to stay home

DEAR ABBY: I must be the worst grandma in the world because I do not like my grandson. He's 16, rude, disrespectful, has no manners and his hygiene is almost nonexistent. When I mention my concerns to my son, he says, "I'm working on it." My daughter-in-law refuses to discuss it and just walks away.

We live in different states, so I don't have a lot of interaction with the boy. But when I must, I don't enjoy it. In fact, I find spending time with him very stressful. Any suggestions?

BAD GRANDMA IN COLORADO

DEAR GRANDMA: If you visit, display your own good manners when dealing with your grandson and impart whatever advice you can. His behavior may improve by the time he is out of his teens. However, if it doesn't by the time he's 21, at least you'll know you tried.

■■■■■

DEAR ABBY: I need help navigating a situation that comes up periodically and usually leaves my sister in tears. She has a very small wardrobe because she travels all the time, so when she's in town, she'll often ask to borrow my clothes. She's similar in proportions to me and in good shape, but she's 4 inches taller than I am. That means a lot of my clothes are too tight on her.

If I refuse when she asks to borrow my things, she gets upset

and says I don't trust her. If I say yes and she tries something on that's a little small, she gets upset about being "too fat." I feel like I can't win. I do trust her, and I don't want her to have a negative image of her body. What should I do the next time she asks to borrow something?

TRYING TO BE A GOOD SISTER

DEAR TRYING: The next time it happens, "remind" her that although your proportions are similar, they are not identical. Then suggest she store some of her own clothes at your place so she'll have more choices the next time she's back in town.

■■■■■

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have wonderful friends and neighbors. We go out to dinner and concerts, and vacation together. They are smart, funny, charming folks. But there's one problem. When we go out to dinner, we always agree to split the check regardless of who had what to eat. On more than one occasion, I put in 50% of the bill but they often bring a coupon or discount card they apply only to their half.

If I had a coupon, I would share it with them so we would all benefit, so I find it kind of irksome that they don't. We are all on fixed incomes but no one is desperate for money. My wife says I should let it go and just focus on the enjoyable evening. I wish I could, but it bugs me. Any advice on how to view this

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

without letting it annoy me?

FRIENDS SHOULD SHARE

DEAR F.S.S.: Your friend appears to be a bit selfish, and I can't blame you for feeling annoyed. The way to deal with it would be to ask for separate checks when the server takes your order. But be prepared for the conversation that is sure to ensue about why you are breaking with "tradition."

■■■■■

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Arozarena homers, Rays beat struggling Yankees, 3-1



**N E W
Y O R K**
(AP)—Ran-

dy Arozarena hit a three-run homer off Nestor Cortes in the first inning and the Tampa Bay staff made it stand up, leading the Rays over the skidding New York Yankees 3-1 Tuesday night.

Starter Jeffrey Springs (5-3) and four relievers combined on a four-hitter, and the crowd of 41,083 at Yankee Stadium booed their AL East leaders at times.

Tampa Bay got only four hits while winning its fourth straight and closing within nine games of the Yankees, who lost 11 of 13 and were held to three runs or less for the seventh straight game.

New York avoided being blanked in three straight games when Andrew Benintendi tripled in the fifth and scored on a fielding error on a grounder by Miguel Andújar.

Cortes (9-4) allowed three runs and four hits in seven innings. He struck out three, walked none and retired 19 of his final 21 hitters.

Springs got 10 outs on the ground and held New York to one run and two hits in five innings. Jason Adam earned his seventh save.

Braves 5, Mets 0

In Atlanta, Charlie Morton was dominant on the mound, Matt Olson and Robbie Grossman went deep, and Atlanta blanked NL East-leading New York for its eighth straight win.

Morton (6-5) surrendered three hits and a walk in 6 2/3 innings, posting his fourth double-figure strikeout game of the season with 12 Ks as Atlanta pulled within 3 1/2 games of the division leaders.

New York's 10-game winner Taijuan Walker made an early exit because of back spasms. R.J. Alvarez (0-1), who was called up from Triple-A Syracuse before the game, took over for Walker and surrendered a 413-foot homer to Grossman, the second batter he faced.

Phillies 11, Reds 4

In Cincinnati, Rhys Hoskins homered twice and drove in five runs as Philadelphia posted the 10,000th win in franchise history, beating Cincinnati.

Philadelphia became the last of the original eight National League franchises to reach the mark. At 10,000-11,163, the Phillies are the only team among them with a losing record.

Nick Castellanos homered and doubled twice and scored three times. Darick Hall and Garrett Stubbs also homered for the Phillies, who hold the second spot in the wild-card



Tampa Bay Rays Randy Arozarena catches a ball hit by New York Yankees' Isiah Kiner-Falefa for an out during the eighth inning of a baseball game Tuesday, Aug. 16, 2022, in New York.

race. Kyle Gibson (8-5) struck out 11 in six innings.

Cardinals 5, Rockies 4

In St. Louis, Paul Goldschmidt and Tommy Edman homered, and St. Louis scored the winning run when Tyler O'Neill was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded in the bottom of the ninth inning, edging Colorado.

Andrew Knizner and Lars Nootbaar drew walks off Dinelson Lamet (1-2) in the ninth, and Dylan Carlson reached on a bunt single to load the bases before O'Neill was plunked.

José Quintana pitched no-hit ball with two walks for five innings before allowing two runs on four consecutive hits to lead off the sixth, ending his night. Ryan Helsley (7-1) pitched a scoreless top of the ninth to lower his ERA to 0.91 in 49 2/3 innings this season.

Charlie Blackmon knocked in a run with a single in the sixth inning and hit a two-run double in the seventh for Colorado. Jose Iglesias knocked in the Rockies' other run.

Orioles 4, Blue Jays 2

In Toronto, Cedric Mullins and Adley Rutschman hit back-to-back home runs, Ramón Urias drove in the tiebreaking run in the sixth inning and Baltimore beat Toronto for its 10th win in 14 August games.

Dean Kremer (5-4) matched his career high by pitching seven innings, winning for the second time in three starts. He allowed two runs and seven hits with one walk and six strikeouts. Félix Bautista struck out a pair in the ninth for his seventh save in eight chances.

Ryan McKenna had an RBI hit as the Orioles (61-

55) closed to within one-half game of Toronto (61-54). The Blue Jays hold the third and final spot in the AL wild-card standings, trailing Tampa Bay and Seattle.

The slumping Blue Jays lost for the ninth time in 12 games. Toronto is 4-9 in August. Toronto right-hander Alek Manoah (12-6) allowed four runs and four hits in 5 2/3 innings, striking out seven and walking four.

Marlins 4, Padres 3

In Miami, Nick Fortes hit two solo homers and scored the go-ahead run in the seventh inning, leading Miami past San Diego.

Peyton Burdick hit a tie-breaking RBI double that scored Fortes, who had singled against Padres reliever Luis García (4-6) and advanced on a groundout before Burdick's line drive bounced inside the foul line in right.

Down 3-0, the Padres tied it on Manny Machado's three-run double in the seventh.

Red Sox 5, Pirates 3

In Pittsburgh, Nick Pivetta pitched one-hit ball over seven shutout innings for his first win since June 24, and Boston scored four runs in the first inning on their way to a victory over Pittsburgh.

The Pirates' only hit off Pivetta came on Ben Gamel's two-out single in the first inning on a soft liner to left-center. Pivetta (9-9) struck out six and walked three while throwing 99 pitches and retiring his last nine batters. Matt Barnes pitched a 1-2-3 ninth for his third save in five chances.

The first six Red Sox batters reached in the first against Mitch Keller (4-9), who lasted

just two innings due to right shoulder fatigue. He was charged with five runs, four earned, while allowing five hits and three walks with one strikeout.

Alex Verdugo, Christian Arroyo and Eric Hosmer hit consecutive RBI singles and Kike Hernandez added a sacrifice fly in the first for Boston.

Twins 9, Royals 0

In Minneapolis, Sonny Gray matched his season high with 10 strikeouts and Gio Urshela had four hits as Minnesota beat Kansas City.

Gilberto Celestino homered and Luis Arraez picked up three more hits to raise his MLB-best batting average to .336. The Twins moved within a game of AL Central-leading Cleveland.

Gray (7-3) equaled the 10 strikeouts he had against Detroit back on May 24. Caleb Thielbar took over for Gray with a 3-0 lead with two on and no outs, and kept the shut-out intact.

Tigers 4, Guardians 3

In Cleveland, rookie Kerry Carpenter homered for the second straight night and Detroit survived a wild ninth inning to defeat Cleveland.

Cleveland manager Terry Francona was ejected for arguing after the umpires ruled Myles Straw struck out with the tying run on third for the second out of the inning.

Steven Kwan, who was 3 for 3 with a walk, tapped back to Tigers closer Gregory Soto to end the game.

Detroit has won two of three against the AL Central leaders. Garrett Hill (3-3) held Cleveland in check over five innings after allowing a run in the first.

Hill gave up four hits, struck out three and retired the last five hitters he faced.

Brewers 5, Dodgers 4, 11 innings

In Milwaukee, Victor Caratini hit a two-run single off Dodgers closer Craig Kimbrel in the 11th inning, rallying Milwaukee past Los Angeles.

A sensational catch by Dodgers center fielder Chris Taylor in the 10th kept the game tied. Taylor homered in the seventh to make it 3-all.

Batting with the bases loaded and one out against Kimbrel (3-5), Caratini blooped a hit to right field that scored automatic runner Andrew McCutchen and Hunter Renfroe, who had reached on a bunt single.

The Brewers won despite getting just five hits off seven pitchers. The Dodgers have lost two of three since a 12-game winning streak.

Justin Turner's run-scoring single off Milwaukee reliever Brent Suter (4-4) gave the Dodgers a 4-3 in the top of the 11th.

Christian Yelich hit a solo homer in the fifth, ending his 0-for-26 slump. It was his first home run since July 2 at Pittsburgh and first at home since May 5.

Cubs 7, Nationals 5, 11 innings

In Washington, Patrick Wisdom drove in the go-ahead run in the 11th inning, and Chicago beat Washington.

Wisdom led off the inning with a double down the left-field line against Victor Arano (1-1), scoring automatic runner Willson Contreras. Wisdom then went to third on a wild pitch and scored on Seiya Suzuki's single.

Brandon Hughes (2-1) pitched the 10th for Chicago and Mark Leiter Jr. worked the 11th for his first save.

Luke Voit and Lane Thomas clubbed solo homers in the eighth for Washington, while Franmil Reyes homered and singled for the Cubs.

White Sox 4, Astros 3

In Chicago, Yoán Moncada hit a go-ahead single in the eighth inning for the second straight game, and Chicago rallied to beat Houston.

While the showdown between AL Cy Young Award contenders Dylan Cease and Justin Verlander didn't live up to its billing, the White Sox came away with their fifth straight win and moved within a game of AL Central leader Cleveland.

Moncada hit a tiebreaking two-run single in Monday's 4-2 win. This time, Chicago had a runner on third when he singled to center against Hector Neris (4-4) to make it 4-3.

Cease lasted five innings, allowing three runs and six hits. Verlander, tops in the majors in wins and ERA coming in, went seven innings and gave up three runs and eight hits.

Athletics 5, Rangers 1

In Arlington, Texas, Elvis Andrus homered against his former team for the first time, Shea Langeliers doubled on the first pitch he saw in the big leagues and Oakland ended Texas' three-game win streak and snapped its own nine-game skid.

Andrus, who spent his first 12 years in the majors with the Rangers before a trade to Oakland going into last season, hit a two-run shot in the seventh inning for his 8th of the season.

Sean Murphy hit a 454-foot solo shot in the third. JP Sears (4-0) pitched five scoreless innings as Oakland avoided a second 10-game losing streak this season.

Kohei Aihara (0-1) allowed six hits the first time through the order in his first start for Texas since last September. The Japanese right-hander settled down and tied his career highs of 5 2/3 innings and six strikeouts while allowing eight hits and three runs.

Giants 2, Diamondbacks 1

In San Francisco, Brandon Crawford hit a game-ending two-run homer off Ian Kennedy (4-6) after Thairo Estrada's two-out triple, and San Francisco rallied past Arizona.

Christian Walker homered leading off the fourth inning for the game's lone run until the final swing by Crawford for his sixth homer.

D-backs ace Merrill Kelly struck out seven with two walks and four hits over seven innings to improve to 6-3 over 14 career starts against the Giants.

John Brebbia (6-1) struck out two in the ninth for the win for San Francisco.

Mariners 8, Angels 2

In Anaheim, Calif., Adam Frazier broke up José Suárez's bid for a perfect game in the sixth and added a two-run triple in the ninth, leading Seattle to a win over Los Angeles.

Ty France had a tying two-run single in a three-run sixth for the Mariners, who have won five of seven.

Suárez (4-5) retired Seattle's first 16 batters and led 2-0 before Frazier's one-out infield single in the sixth. The next three Mariners also singled, abruptly ending Suárez's night. He struck out five in his first five innings.

NFL looks like old self entering 3rd season in COVID-19 era



NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Derrick Henry has been seen jogging on the field with his daughter after practice. Green Bay Packers are once again borrowing kids' bicycles for rides to practice. Fans are rubbing elbows with their favorite players to get those coveted autographs.

Yes, the NFL is looking and acting like it's essentially back to normal going into its third season dealing with COVID-19.

There are no more trailers or tents for testing, and masks are rare. In fact, the protocols devised and tweaked by the league and the NFL Players Association in 2020 and 2021 were suspended last March.

The NFL seems to be following the lead of the CDC, which dropped social distancing and quarantine requirements last week with an estimated 95% of Americans 16 and older acquiring some level of immunity from vaccinations or infections.

The league still wants anyone with possible symptoms to speak up and wear a mask after contact with someone with COVID-19. A positive test still means isolating at home for at least five days.

"I think we are always concerned about everybody's safety, ours and the health of our families," Tennessee Titans coach Mike Vrabel said, adding that 2 1/2 years into the pandemic: "Hopefully we are past that."

The biggest changes have been the easiest to notice at training camps across the NFL: Fans are back and close enough to high-five and shake hands with players, no longer kept at a distance and happy to resume preseason traditions.

Players are happy to have



Pittsburgh Steelers linebacker T.D. Moultry (46) is greeted by fans and youth football players as he takes the field for practice at NFL football training camp in Latrobe, Pa., Monday, Aug. 15, 2022. AP

fans fully back, grateful for the energy boost during the monotonous routine and long days of camp.

"It's huge," Packers running back Aaron Jones said. "The fans are everything. They're what makes football go, and I would say this is one of the best traditions in football, the bike rides. I've had my same little bike rider since I came in, got to bring my son to practice with me as well, so it's special to me."

The Packers were among the teams that allowed fans to watch training camp practices in 2021 at a distance, though no interaction with players was allowed.

Cheers are very welcome after the relative silence the

past two years when the only sounds were pads thudding, coaches yelling and occasionally music over speakers to simulate fan noise. Families of players, coaches and team staffers couldn't attend either, preventing them from stealing a few minutes at work with their kids or spouses.

Henry's daughter Valentina, now 2, is the perfect age to enjoy racing her father to an end zone after an early practice at camp. The two-time NFL rushing champ said it's the kind of moment his daughter can look at when older.

"Having these moments are always precious, especially with your kids, but just being in football and training camp it takes up a lot of time,"

Henry said. "But any time you get a moment like that, you always cherish those moments and something that we can look back at and laugh at and enjoy."

Vaccinations eased the protocols from 2020 when teammates had to keep 6 feet apart and coaches wore masks on the field whether in practice or games no matter if teams were inside or outdoors. Titans center Ben Jones said that meant friends sitting apart for breakfast and lunch, making it tough to build team chemistry and camaraderie.

"It made it a lot of challenges for me who's a guy who's trying to get five guys on the same page to do it spread out," Ben Jones recalled. "It's not

what you want. As a guy on the team, as a leader, you want as many guys as close as possible so you can have an impact on them."

The social distancing signs are gone. So too are the mandatory tests, saving time each morning spent waiting for a positive or negative result.

No NFL regular-season games were canceled the past two seasons because of the pandemic, though many

were moved around during 2020 with the entire preseason scrapped. About 95% of the players and nearly 100% of team personnel were vaccinated, the league reported.

The Titans had the first outbreak of the 2020 season, and Vrabel tested positive during the 2021 preseason at the start of another outbreak for the team.

Other professional leagues also are adjusting protocols;

— Major League Baseball dropped regular COVID-19 testing for all but symptomatic individuals prior to the start of the 2022 season.

— The NHL and NHL Players Association released updated protocols Tuesday afternoon "strongly" encouraging vaccinations and booster shots and testing only when symptoms are present. Much like the NBA and MLB, unvaccinated individuals won't be able to cross the border between the U.S. and Canada. Unvaccinated players risk suspension and lost pay for missing "team activities," though the NHL only has a couple of players and assistant coaches in that category.

— The NBA hasn't revealed its full policy for the upcoming season. Commissioner Adam Silver said last month he's expecting continued movement toward normalcy, "I have learned over the last 2 1/2 years not to make any predictions when it comes to COVID, but only to say we'll be prepared for anything that comes our way."

Seattle QB Lock tests positive for COVID-19; out vs. Bears

RENTON, Wash. (AP)—Seattle Seahawks quarterback Drew Lock tested positive for COVID-19 on Tuesday and will miss the team's preseason game against Chicago.

The Seahawks issued a statement regarding Lock's positive test about two hours following the end of Tuesday's practice in which Lock was a full participant and led the No. 1 offense. Before learning of the positive test, Seattle coach Pete Carroll announced that Lock would start Thursday's game against the Bears after he served as the backup to Geno Smith in last weekend's preseason game in Pittsburgh.

Lock was acquired from Denver as part of the trade that sent Russell Wilson to the Broncos and has been competing with Smith for the starting job with the Seahawks. Carroll said Tuesday the plan all along was for Smith to start the preseason opener and have Lock get the

nod for the second game.

"This was part of the plan. Regardless of what happened, we were going to give Drew a chance to start a game to see what happens," Carroll said after practice. "Fortunately, he has played really well, and he deserves a shot to play, just like everybody deserves a shot to play and show what they can do, so we've been able to stick to it."

Lock will have to be away from the team for several days, but should have a chance at returning in time for Seattle's preseason finale on Aug. 26 at Dallas. Still, the game against the Bears was expected to be Lock's chance at leading the starting offense and perhaps overtaking Smith in the race to be Seattle's starting QB.

Lock is the second prominent person for the Seahawks to test positive during training camp. Carroll was away from the team for five days during the opening week of camp after testing positive.

Source: Jets' Wilson has no additional damage to knee

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. (AP)—Zach Wilson and the New York Jets received some good news after a few days of worrying about the quarterback's right knee.

Wilson had arthroscopic surgery Tuesday to repair a torn meniscus and remains on track to return in a few weeks, a person with knowledge told The Associated Press.

Wilson, who also has a bone bruise in the knee, flew to Los Angeles to have the procedure performed by Dr. Neal ElAttrache. Wilson's meniscus was trimmed and ElAttrache found no additional damage than initially believed, said the person who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because

the team didn't announce results of the surgery.

That timeline means the Jets could still potentially have their starting quarterback for Week 1. However, the team will likely be cautious with Wilson before getting him back on the field.

ESPN first reported that no additional damage was found during Wilson's surgery.

Wilson was initially expected to miss two to four weeks with a bone bruise and meniscus tear in his right knee, and the team was optimistic that would remain the case.

But the timeline for how long the second-year quarterback could be sidelined would be determined by the surgery on the meniscus

and whether it needed to be trimmed or fully repaired.

It was initially feared that Wilson suffered a serious — and potentially season-ending — knee injury during the second offensive series of New York's 24-21 preseason-opening win at Philadelphia last Friday night. Tests after the game indicated the ACL in the knee was intact, and an MRI on Saturday morning revealed the bone bruise and torn meniscus.

Joe Flacco could still start the regular-season opener against Baltimore — his former team — on Sept. 11 if Wilson isn't ready.

Coach Robert Saleh acknowledged Sunday that Wilson being sidelined a

few weeks is a setback in his development, particularly since the Jets have joint practices coming up with the Falcons and Giants.

"It's a setback in that he's missing an unbelievable opportunity to get these reps in and to play other defenses, especially the Giants who have such an elaborate pressure package system, a pressure system," Saleh said. "But he's got to stay dialed in just like he was last year when he was hurt, learn from his teammates and try to be involved as much mentally as he can possibly be."

"The timing of it all is terrible and it sucks, but I think Zach can still have an opportunity to grow from it if he attacks it mentally."

Basketball teams sought for Marianas Village Cup

The Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation and Tan Holdings are teaming up in hosting a new basketball competition dubbed as Marianas Village Cup 2022.

Tournament commissioner and NMIBF director Irish Pagarao said the Marianas Village Cup will feature games in the boys U18 division and women's open and they are looking at opening the competition in the first week of October. The NMIBF will run the tournament with Tan Holdings as sponsor, as the event is part of the several sports competitions that the company is supporting in celebration of its 50th anniversary this year.

Organizers are looking at 12 teams in the boys U18 division and six in the women's open. After signing up, each squad will randomly pick (via raffle drawing) the village team name it will be carrying. Teams will also receive free jerseys, which feature the flags of each village that were unveiled through the Marianas Village Pride project of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers in June.

"For now, we will be assigning village names to each team. However, we hope that this tournament will help encourage village leaders, coaches, and other stakehold-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

One of the teams participating in the Marianas Village Cup 2009 will be provided with this free jersey designed with Kagman flag.

ers to form and support their own village team in the near future so we can have a competition similar to the inter-village league before," Pagarao added.

NMIBF president James Lee added that the Marianas Village Cup will be a good venue to identify talents and for NMIBF-member clubs to start engaging potential village partners.

"We are excited to include the Marianas Village Cup to our calendar of events this year as part of our continued efforts in encouraging stakeholders in villages to take part in promoting and supporting sports programs for residents,

particularly our youth. We started with "Bola" by going to villages to conduct clinics and now we partner with Tan Holdings for the Marianas Village Cup, which in the future we hope to have games in the outdoor courts of the different villages in the NMI," Lee said.

Matches in the inaugural Marianas Village Cup will be played every Saturday and Sunday only at the TSL Sports Complex to give way to the interscholastic league games scheduled on weekdays.

Meanwhile, Merlie Tolentino, executive director of the Tan Siu Lin Foundation—the

charity arm of Tan Holdings—said the company is pleased to support the Marianas Village Cup and its concept of having teams named after villages

in the NMI to promote the identity of each village.

To register or for more information about the Marianas

Village Cup, contact Pagarao at 670-285-1138 or send email to Pagarao11@yahoo.com. For announcements and other details about the Marianas Village Cup, please visit the NMIBF Facebook page NMIBasketballFederation and Instagram at nmibasketball. (PR)



Logan Hopkins returns To UOG Men's Basketball



On Sunday morning at 8am, a familiar face returned to the main court at the University of Guam Calvo Field House, as Logan Hopkins started shooting 3-pointers in the UOG basketball arena for the first time in two years.

Logan Hopkins has returned to UOG to finish his Marine Biology degree as well as play basketball again for the Tritons. Hopkins is a former Triton Athletics Student-Athlete of the Year as well as the most valuable player for the men's basketball team. But he was forced to leave UOG due to medical issues in his family back in Texas during early 2020 and most had thought his career at the University of Guam was over.

"We have stayed in contact

over the past two years, and we knew he wanted to return to UOG to finish his degree as well as play again for the Tritons, so once his family issues were resolved, he let us know he was coming back and would arrive on August 13. I got a WhatsApp notice from him on Sunday morning at 7am asking if the gym was going to be open today and I told him I would be there at 8am and come over from the dorm to shoot and he was there," said UOG Athletics director Doug Palmer.

The 5'10" Hopkins has been the leading scorer for the Tritons in the past, serving as a guard and 3-point marksmen for UOG but he has also been known to weave through KFC Bombers defense to score a layup on occasion as well.

The Tritons were able to restart basketball in the spring

swimming.

For its part, Duel in the Pool is an elite swimming competition which is a duel meet between the best swimmers from Australia and the USA. Oceania coaches attending this event will get first-hand exposure to a high-performance competition environment with the two best swim teams in the world going head-to-head.

ups," he said.

Meanwhile, Santos said the SBL is looking at sending the CNMI National Baseball Team to the Palau Independence Day tournament in the first week of October.

He said SBL received the invitation when the Palau national baseball team competed here during the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022.

"Aside from Palau teams, there will also be teams from Taiwan, Korea, and Guam that are going so we want to send



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Logan Hopkins in action during a University of Guam open gym session at the UOG Calvo Field House.

from the pandemic and had a 10-20 record over the spring semester. The young Tritons

were expected to make a jump in their record with most of the heart of the team coming back

and with the addition Logan, that may still come true but the spring of 2022 most valuable player Diane' "D" Blackmon has not returned from the mainland so the Tritons will not be as talented as hoped but Hopkins should help with that pain.

The Tritons had 19 players at the first night of tryouts and they return both Matt Santos and Darryll Robles as two of the big three from the spring, as well as Tristan Valdes who was an occasional starter or the first player off the bench in the spring to bring some depth to the line-up.

Hopkins will also become a multi-team player for the Tritons, as he plans on playing baseball for UOG as well.

"Logan was a three-sport player in high school, playing football, baseball and basketball," said Palmer.

Hopkins has two semesters to finish his undergraduate degree at UOG but he may return as a graduate student to pursue his academic dream of studying sharks and other marine life with a masters degree. (PR)

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE East Division

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|-----------|----|----|------|-----|
| New York | 72 | 45 | .615 | |
| Tampa Bay | 62 | 53 | .539 | 9 |
| Toronto | 61 | 54 | .530 | 10 |
| Baltimore | 61 | 55 | .526 | 10½ |
| Boston | 58 | 59 | .496 | 14 |

Central Division

| | | | | |
|-------------|----|----|------|-----|
| Cleveland | 62 | 55 | .530 | |
| Minnesota | 60 | 55 | .522 | 1 |
| Chicago | 61 | 56 | .521 | 1 |
| Kansas City | 48 | 70 | .407 | 14½ |
| Detroit | 45 | 74 | .378 | 18 |

West Division

| | | | | |
|-------------|----|----|------|-----|
| Houston | 75 | 43 | .636 | |
| Seattle | 64 | 54 | .542 | 11 |
| Texas | 52 | 64 | .448 | 22 |
| Los Angeles | 51 | 66 | .436 | 23½ |
| Oakland | 42 | 75 | .359 | 32½ |

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

| | | | | |
|--------------|----|----|------|-----|
| New York | 75 | 42 | .641 | |
| Atlanta | 72 | 46 | .610 | 3½ |
| Philadelphia | 65 | 51 | .560 | 9½ |
| Miami | 52 | 65 | .444 | 23 |
| Washington | 39 | 79 | .331 | 36½ |

Central Division

| | | | | |
|------------|----|----|------|-----|
| St. Louis | 64 | 51 | .557 | |
| Milwaukee | 62 | 53 | .539 | 2 |
| Chicago | 48 | 67 | .417 | 16 |
| Cincinnati | 45 | 70 | .391 | 19 |
| Pittsburgh | 45 | 71 | .388 | 19½ |

West Division

| | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|------|-----|
| Los Angeles | 80 | 35 | .696 | |
| San Diego | 65 | 54 | .546 | 17 |
| San Francisco | 59 | 57 | .509 | 21½ |
| Arizona | 53 | 63 | .457 | 27½ |
| Colorado | 51 | 67 | .432 | 30½ |

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COACH

From Page 20

facing sports.

Further, it brings together experts in technology, coaching, and culture development, athlete health and well-being, inclusion and the pathway to 2032. SwimCon is intended for coaches, managers and administrators in the sport of

SANTOS

From Page 20

the momentum of the CNMI defending its baseball gold medal in the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022, but the SBL president said because of the long layoff they're giving teams as much time as they need to get back in the thick of things.

"We'll have time to organize through the fall and holiday season and coaches will have time to prepare their line-

ROLLERS

From Page 20

championship, was honored First Team All-Island, and also came in second in the Slam Dunk Contest held at the Far

our team so they can compete there," said Santos.

The SBL president added that they also want to finally have their youth leagues going by 2023.

"The SBL board of directors also want to put together U15 and U18 leagues and hopefully they'll coincide with the new season of the SBL as well."

The SBL hasn't had a season since Super Typhoon Yutu devastated Saipan in 2018.

In fact, SBL was in the middle of its best-of-five champi-

East Tournament in Japan.

Aiken is also part of the Guam national basketball team that bagged the gold medal at the 2014 Micronesian Games.

Before signing with the

onship series pitting the Chalan Kanoa Bears and Go See Mark when the Category 5 typhoon hit the island on Oct. 2, 2018.

The Bears actually took the opener against Go See Mark, 8-5, on Oct. 22 or a few days before Yutu slammed Saipan and Tinian.

The Category 5 typhoon left the Francisco "Tan Ko" M. Palacios Baseball Field unplayable with the bleacher crumpled, the bases and ground washed out, and the lights and nets broken.

Yamaguchi Patriots, Aiken also suited up for the Akita Northern Happinets (2015-2016), Tokyo Cinq Rêves (2016), Five Arrows (2017), and the Saitama Broncos (2019-2021).

The SBL later awarded the 2018 championship to the Bears by virtue of their Game 1 win.

With the Bears taking the finals win, they completed their domination of the 2018 season as they also got the pennant title that year.

The Bears earned a 17-1 record in the double-round robin regular season. The 17 victories came in a streak and was recorded after the Bears dropped their first game in the season against the dethroned champions Aces, 4-14.



Arozarena homers,
Rays beat
struggling
Yankees, 3-1
PAGE 17

Saipan Tribune Sports

Basketball teams
sought for Marianas
Village Cup
PAGE 19



20 THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, 2022

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Rollers attend Morgan Aiken's camp in Guam

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

NMI Rollers Basketball Association's girls 17-and-under team is currently in Guam advancing their knowledge of the sport by attending the basketball camp of B.League player Morgan Aiken.



A total of nine players are training at the Ballers Gymnasium in Harmon and they are Kaia Travilla, Kyna Delos Reyes, Lency Sagarino, Tasilyn Ramon, Andera Ramos, Kaeli Pathil, Yasmeen Younis, Kathlyn Chavez, and Mia Abuan.

The 17U team is coached by Marlene Lumabi, while the head of the Rollers delegation is Rollers founder and head coach Joe Diaz.

"We brought down nine girls to Guam. We started our training today with Morgan Aiken. The girls were divided into two groups and went for an hour and 30 minutes. This will be for three days, which are Aug. 17, 18, and 19," said Lumabi, who is also a member of the CNMI National Women's Basketball Team.

Not content with just pacing

on the sidelines, Lumabi eventually joined the basketball camp with her players to learn more about the sport from the Yamaguchi Patriots guard.

"I also jumped in during the training sessions to learn the drills which I decided to bring back home. I love how he focused on the fundamentals. The first day of training was awesome!" she said.

Diaz said aside from the opportunity to gain basketball knowledge from Guam's first professional basketball player in the Japan league, he also brought Lumabi along in the Guam camp to network with NMI Rollers Basketball Association's longtime partners and supporters.

"For me, it was hard when I first went to Guam in 2006. I had to call up the mayor's office in Guam to find out where to go and the first basketball club that helped us was the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMI Rollers Basketball Association's girls 17-and-under team and coaches Joe Diaz and Marlene Lumabi pose with B.League player Morgan Aiken at his basketball camp in Harmon, Guam.

Barrigada Crusaders Basketball Club. We were still known as Garapan Rollers Basketball Club back then and now we have a new name, which is the NMI Rollers Basketball Association," he said.

Born in Hawaii, the 5'8" Aiken attended Saint Paul Christian School in Guam before

playing NCAA college basketball for Eastern University in 2013.

Aiken was the only sophomore in 2010 to make the All-Island team (second team) in the Guam IIAAG High School League. In 2011 as a junior, Aiken won the state

See ROLLERS on Page 19

Santos: New SBL season in 2023

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Saipan Baseball League is looking at next year for the resumption of its baseball season after a super typhoon and COVID-19 essentially wiped out competition the past four years.

"We want to get the

Saipan Baseball League season going by next year when it's full baseball season in the CNMI. So, we'll have plenty of time to organize and also allow the baseball teams to get organized," SBL president Jay Santos told *Saipan Tribune*.

The SBL hopes to ride **See SANTOS on Page 19**



Coach Sikkel to attend workshop in Australia

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Before he leaves for the 2022 FINA Junior World Championships in Lima, Peru



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Swim Club coach Richard Sikkel, second from left, poses with assistant coach Ally Pourmonir and the CNMI swimming team that competed in the 2022 FINA World Championship in Budapest, Hungary.

with Jinie Thompson and his daughter Savita, Saipan Swim Club coach Richard Sikkel will be flying to Australia to attend a coaching workshop.

A total of 14 coaches from

Oceania were invited to attend the Oceania Coaches Workshop and Duel in the Pool (Australia vs USA) from Aug. 19-21, 2022. The workshop is supported by the Oceania Swimming Association.

"I want to thank the Oceania Swimming Association for supporting the federations

and coaches from some of the smaller nations that fall under Oceania to attend this workshop facilitated by expert high performance coaches. I also want to thank the Northern Marianas Swimming Federation for recommending me for this opportunity. As a coach I am always looking to learn and grow. Having hands-on experience under the guidance of coaches who coach at the highest level in the sport will hopefully allow me to replicate some of their methods and techniques and raise



the level of swimming in the NMI," said Sikkel.

The objective of the three-day event is to further develop and enhance the capacity of swim coaches from the member federations by supporting them to attend a development workshop, SwimCon and Duel in the Pool.

The workshop is designed to incorporate Oceania coaches attending SwimCon and will be facilitated by Haydn Belshaw from Swimming Australia and a number of other expert swimming coaches. The workshop will include a range of theory and practical activities for attending coaches.

SwimCon is also a leadership and innovation conference, bringing together experts and leaders from across the industry to present on key challenges and opportunities

See COACH on Page 19



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The Chalan Kanoa Bears' A.J. Lizama takes his time before pitching against the Mariners during a regular season game in the 2018 Saipan Baseball League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.